

DAILY REPORT

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USSR FREES FISHERMEN TO MARK ANNIVERSARY

OW310915 Tokyo KYODO in English 0909 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] Niigata, Dec 31, KYODO -- The Soviet Union Friday freed all Japanese fishermen detained for alleged illegal fishing, except one in hospital for illness, to mark the 60th anniversary of its founding.

Twenty-six of them, detained between December 1980 and July this year, arrived at Niigata Airport to tearful reunions with their relatives and friends. Their colleague, Haruo Ota, 36, a deck hand on the No. 8 Kinsei Maru, is still in Soviet hospital and it is still unknown when he can return home.

The fishermen, all of Nemuro in Hokkaido, were taken into Soviet custody for allegedly violating Soviet territorial waters and other Soviet rules.

Another Japanese fisherman, Tamotsu Oka, 54, captain of the No. 18 Shoshin Maru who had also been under Soviet custody, returned to Nemuro Friday aboard a Japanese patrol boat.

The Soviet Government told Japan's Foreign Ministry December 21 it was releasing all the 29 Japanese fishermen and the first of them returned to Japan December 24.

NAKASONE HOLDS NEW YEAR PRESS CONFERENCE

OW021131 Tokyo NHK Television Network in Japanese 2330 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's New Year press conference at his official residence -- recorded; date not given]

[Text] [Prime Minister Nakasone] To begin with, I would like to extend, through television, my New Year greetings to my fellow citizens across the country. I hope that peace will prevail throughout the world in the new year, that it will be a year free from any war or international conflict, and that the world will be calm and quiet. At the same time, I particularly pray for the prosperity and good health of the Japanese people, my fellow citizens.

As you know, this year is the year of the boar. Some may be a bit worried that, being what he is, Nakasone will thrust forward foolhardily like a boar. As I once said, the seriousness of the present domestic and international situation may be compared to a baseball inning with no one out and the bases loaded. I will sincerely and humbly listen to the voices of my fellow citizens and the opposition parties and strive to tide over the present difficulties together with all of you.

Indeed, the government is in our charge because you, the people, have empowered us with such authority. Therefore, we want to perform our duties with thoughtfulness in mind, as I mentioned before, and with a really keen sense of seriousness, looking at the tasks entrusted to us and the position given to us with a deep sense of humility. Despite the many difficulties, we hope that the new year will have a bright side in many respects. Thus we will look for bright prospects and bright tasks together with you and make this a bright year.

[Question] We would like to ask you about some concrete problems. The first question concerns the government budget for fiscal 1983, the draft of which was adopted at the year's end. We hear that the opposition parties in particular are criticizing the fact that welfare spending is being curtailed in favor of defense outlays, which have been set at 6.5 percent higher than in the 1982 budget.

There is the opinion that the defense budget is disproportionately large, larger than that for the previous fiscal year, although the rate of increase will depend on how the recommendations of the national personnel authority on a pay hike for government employees will be handled. What is your comment on this?

[Answer] I am very glad and feel thankful that with the cooperation of my fellow citizens and of local government leaders -- mayors, governors and head of townships and villages -- we were able to finish the compilation of a new budget before the end of the year, in fact, 1 day before the year's end. This was the result of the efforts of LDP officials who were united by the determination to finish the task of compiling the budget before the end of the year without fail. On the strength of this unity, we intend to live up to the expectations of our fellow citizens.

Now, as for the contents of the budget, this was the first time we compiled a budget under the "zero ceiling" principle, or of making it in the same amount as last year's budget. As a result, I am afraid that the new budget is going to affect some sections of our society. In the course of compiling the budget and in the final states of it, I specifically told the finance minister to pay particular attention to the weak in society and to housing and other similar problems. Consequently, the welfare budget for sick, old, bedridden people, families of incapacitated persons and others was increased by about 8 percent. I particularly saw to it that funds be earmarked for the welfare of those under home care; spending for them was increased by about 8 percent; but many other expenses were curtailed. As for the housing budget, buyers of new homes were allowed to claim only a 50,000-yen deduction under the old regulations, but the deduction has now been raised to 150,000 yen in the new budget. The deduction is also applicable to buyers of old houses. As you see, there has been some progress in the housing policy.

As for science and technology outlays, there were no subsidies to research facilities of private colleges and universities in the past, although national universities received subsidies. The new budget has earmarked funds for subsidies to research facilities in private colleges and universities for the first time. The fund for the Science and Technology Council was raised from the previous 6 billion yen. As you see, stress is also laid on science and technology.

The ODA (Official Development Assistance) budget was also increased by about 6 percent.

In defense spending, too, the new year's spending was set 6.5 percent higher than last winter's, which was 7.8 percent higher than the preceding year. If there is a pay raise for defense personnel, the rate of increase in defense spending will be larger than last year's, depending on how the recommendations of the National Personnel Authority, which are expected to come out in August, will be handled. To be sure, when all this is considered, the defense outlay is set higher. At the final stage of budget compilation, I took personal responsibility and had the finance minister increase the budget figure while taking other budget items into consideration.

This was due to the fact that I attach great importance to our relations with the United States. I believe above all that Japan-U.S. relations should never go sour and that Japan must try this time to do as much as the NATO countries, namely, the free European countries, are doing. In fact, the NATO countries have increased their defense spending by 3 percent in real terms each year after allowing for price increases. The United States asked NATO to increase the spending by 4 percent in October last year. That was a strong request on the part of the United States.

Japan has made efforts in its own way. Since Japan has promised to accomplish the defense buildup program outline as soon as possible and former Prime Minister Suzuki promised further efforts during his talks with President Reagan, we should carry out our promises and should never lie.

With this belief, and in order to fulfill our promises, I had money earmarked to carry them out despite our tight fiscal condition.

By doing so, we want to deepen still more the Japan-U.S. relations of trust. We have trade friction and various other problems, but it is my basic policy that we solve them conscientiously one after another and tie Japan and the United States together with a strong bond.

Trade restriction and other bills have been introduced in the U.S. Congress. If these measures are passed, if the rash bill requiring that 90 percent of the parts on imported foreign cars should be made in the United States were to be passed, for instance, Japanese cars would no longer enter the U.S. market, making it possible for all Japanese auto part makers and subcontractors to be ruined. In my own prefecture, many subcontractors making auto bumpers, mirrors and so forth are reaping economic benefits. If orders for these parts disappear, they will face very hard times. Considering all this, I think that we must keep our relations with the United States on good terms for the sake of our economic prosperity; and I took personal responsibility to have the defense budget increased for the good of our economy.

[Question] Our next question is about the nation's fiscal reconstruction. The Suzuki administration pushed for the rebuilding of state finances under two slogans -- no tax hikes and putting an end to the deficit-covering bond issuance by 1984. Your administration, however, has done away with the second of the two slogans. In this connection, could you comment on the future course of fiscal reconstruction?

[Answer] It is said that the goal of ending the issuance of deficit-covering bonds by fiscal 1984 has become very difficult to achieve. I agree. As for fiscal reconstruction without tax increase, however, we are still committed to that goal. The announced budget plan contains almost no tax hikes. I feel that of all the budget plans so far, it is the most thoroughgoing on that point, I mean the point of compiling a budget without relying on increased taxes.

I had to face the same question at the recent Diet session, the question about the government's future fiscal plan. We introduced what was called the 7-year socioeconomic plan following the oil crises, which contained some overestimates on various items and which, as a result, resulted in deficits totaling as much as 6.1 trillion yen. We have decided to revise the whole plan into something based on a more realistic and accurate outlook. Work has begun on it. We will have a more realistic outlook report and more realistic projections, which will show us ways and means of rescuing this country from the current global crisis. Japan's future fiscal program will be based on that outlook report. The Economic Planning Agency and the Finance Ministry, in coordination with each other, are working on both the outlook report and the fiscal program. At a time like this, when the world outlook is not clear and when the global slump continues, I find it necessary to show the people how we plan to rescue them from it. At my request, the Economic Planning Agency and the Finance Ministry are speeding up their work. I am certain that we will be able to show the results of their work to our citizens in the near future.

Among other things, I feel that we should pay priority consideration to recession-caused problems in order to make life a little brighter. To that end, we have included in the budget plan a cutback on investment taxes for small and medium-size enterprises, and a revision of the inheritance tax system involving those enterprises by granting a lower tax rate for those inheriting businesses. We will put these and a variety of other programs into effect in an effort to gradually refloat the economy.

The state finances are in trouble, with accumulated deficits in public bonds reaching approximately 100 trillion yen.

The government cannot afford to spend as generously as it has done in the past. We therefore are counting on private banking organizations. We expect them to play a more active role this year. Furthermore, we are thinking of lifting unnecessary restrictions and controls on them to enable them to be bolder in whatever projects they plan to launch and to be more creative in their activities. In the meantime, we will receive recommendations from the Extraordinary Administrative Reform Research Council, including those concerning the monopoly corporation and the telegraph-telephone public corporation, and we will take necessary steps based on them.

There is one important thing in this connection. It is that we must keep the yen strong in the international money market. The yen had unreasonably been undervalued until it began regaining strength recently. It bounced back to the level of 230 yen to the dollar from 270 yen previously. The difference is as much as 40 yen. As the value of the yen rises, prices will decline on such items as gasoline. As you know, the oil companies have already retracted plans to increase prices of their products. The impact of the strength of the yen on commodity prices is great; therefore I will pursue policies to keep the yen strong.

This, of course, is a matter that is up to the governing of the Bank of Japan. Governor Maekawa is an authority on this issue. I fully trust his judgment and am leaving everything to him; he is free to do anything that he believes should be done.

[Question] Our next question is about taxes, which has something to do with the nation's fiscal reconstruction. Although you have said that the budget plan for fiscal 1983 envisages no tax hike, the plan contains no income tax cut either. Don't you think that this means practically a tax increase of a considerable size? Spreading among white-collar workers is a feeling of unfairness about sharing the tax burden. On the other hand, we hear comments that the nation's fiscal reconstruction will be impossible except by increasing taxes. Would you comment on your plans concerning the nation's tax system?

[Answer] As regards a tax cut, talks are still continuing on this matter among the various political parties. The 1982 fiscal year has not yet come to a close; it continues until the end of March. Fiscal 1983 begins on 1 April. We will have the political parties discuss the tax cut issue throughout the current fiscal year. As soon as they reach a conclusion, we will take action based on it. This is our plan. In fact, honestly speaking, it is my desire to reduce taxes for white-collar and other workers if it is at all possible. The present budgetary and fiscal circumstances affecting the nation, however, do not allow the government to have anything but what is called a zero ceiling on the budget. The nation is in such financial straits that we simply find it impossible to make plans for a tax cut at this moment. I feel very sorry about it. Nevertheless, I will continue my careful watch of the current talks among political parties. As for the goal of fiscal reconstruction without a tax increase, I am still committed to it.

[Question] Our next question is about the next regular session of the Diet. What is the approximate date on which you intend to have it reconvened? It is said that the session will face many difficulties. What plans do you have to cope with them? What type of legislation are you planning to introduce in connection with administrative reforms?

[Answer] My desire is to have the regular Diet session reconvened as soon as possible. I am scheduled to leave for Washington for talks with President Reagan on 17 January. I originally planned to spend a night in San Francisco for a rest on my way back to Tokyo. To have an early reconvening of the Diet session, however, the LDP decided to move up the date of convening the Diet. As a result, I had to cancel my planned stop-over in San Francisco. I will be returning almost nonstop to Tokyo from Washington.

I will be back home by 21 January evening and attend the LDP convention on 22 January. I personally requested this kind of itinerary so that I can have the Diet session reopen as soon as possible. I also expect the LDP to talk opposition parties into an early reconvening of the session so that the Diet can speed up its deliberations. As regards the exact date of reopening, it is a matter that should be left to the decision of the representatives of the Diet policy committees of all parties.

I expect it to be a session marked by serious difficulties. The latest extraordinary session was a difficult one, too; so difficult that some sympathetic television viewers told me that I seemed to have lost a considerable part of my hair during that session. I even think that the upcoming session could leave me completely bald. [laughter]

It is important to have the Diet pass the budget bill and the relating to administrative reforms, particularly the bill for the creation of a National Railways Administration committee. Furthermore, 2 days ago I asked Mr Hashimoto, chairman of the Administrative and Financial Affairs Council, and Mr Saito, director general of the National Personnel Authority, to work out LDP plans concerning reforms of the monopoly corporation and the telegraph-telephone public corporation by the end of March. I expect the LDP to determine first the general direction of the reforms and then to work out the related bills.

We also have the annuity problem. One of the problems concerning the national railways is its annuity system that is about to go bankrupt. In order to find a way out, we are planning to carry out a merger of the annuity system of the National Railways Employees Mutual Aid Society with those of the Government Employees Mutual Aid Society and other public employees mutual aid societies. Health-Welfare Minister Hayashi is in charge of this work. I expect him to come up with a plan next spring. We will study the plan and decide if we can write it into legislation.

I am also expecting the Extraordinary Administrative Reform Research Council to present more recommendations before it ceases functioning on 16 March. We will have to wait until we see all these recommendations; otherwise we will be unable to decide how we should deal with them, whether we should put them into legislation right away or study them further. We will make decisions on these matters while taking into consideration the circumstances surrounding the Diet at the time. At any rate, carrying out administrative reforms is one of the most important pledges of my administration. I am determined to make every possible effort to fulfill that pledge.

[Question] Our next question is about political ethics. Former Prime Minister Tanaka has continued to be deeply involved in politics in this country for 7 years or so since the outbreak of the Lockheed payoff scandal. The reported schedule has it that, in the current trial of the case, the prosecution will come up with its demand for his punishment on 26 April, and that the court will hand down its verdict in the fall. Opposition parties reportedly are planning to demand Mr Tanaka give up his seat in the Diet at the time when the prosecution makes its statement on his punishment. At the same time, they are expected to renew their demand for the resignation of Mr Sato as a Diet member, which was first presented to the last Diet session. The opposition strategy seems to focus on your stance on the ethics issue, which they consider weak. They seem to be ready for an offensive in that respect. How would you deal with such an offensive? What are your plans on issues pending from the latest extraordinary Diet session or even from the regular Diet session last year, such as the proposed amendments to the law governing testimony by Diet members and the proposed creation of a political ethics committee? In the past, in answering questions relating to these issues, you stuck to the position that they should be handled by political parties. In the meantime, you repeatedly said that public confidence is the most important of all the pillars supporting the government. Would you comment on the present situation involving the political ethics issue?

[Answer] I think that it is a very important issue. Democratic government is based on the confidence of the people. Democratic representation is impossible but for public confidence. In that sense, I believe we should attach great importance to political ethics. At the same time, we should maintain self-discipline and keep ourselves from any wrongdoing. From this point of view, there will be absolutely no meddling in the trial. I swore to heaven in the last extraordinary Diet session that the government would never exercise its prerogative to meddle in the trial. I reaffirm that statement.

There are various problems, like those of establishing an ethics committee and revising the Dietmen's Testimony Act. These problems involve all parties and have a bearing on party politics or parliamentary government, and they have developed as some dietmen were subjected to questioning by the speaker of the Diet. Therefore, I would like conclusions on these problems reached as soon as possible.

[Question] I would like to ask a few questions about the possibility of dissolving the Diet. Rumors about possible Diet resolutions have been rife since late last year. Some anticipate that, depending on circumstances, there might be a Diet resolution, followed by general elections, in the first half of the new year. To be sure, some nonmainstream factions of the LDP believe that the Diet should not be dissolved lightly. In this connection, I would like to ask these questions: What is your basic stance, as one who has the power to dissolve the Diet, on the issue of dissolving the Diet? Is there any possibility that there will be a Diet resolution at the outset of the next regular Diet session, as rumors say? Some think that there is a strong undercurrent for a double, upper and lower house, election. Is this a possibility? What do you think of the idea of holding upper and lower house elections simultaneously?

[Answer] First, my opinion of the Diet dissolution issue is this: The Diet should not be dissolved lightly. Any dissolution will produce a considerable political vacuum, which will frustrate our plan to gradually improve things, including the economic condition, in the spring. Therefore we should not lightly dissolve the Diet.

It is my basic belief that, as a matter of principle, the Diet should last until the end of its term and dietmen should work until their terms expire. The term of the lower house will expire in June 1984. That is the principle, and my basic thinking. But the Constitution has a provision for dissolving the Diet. The Constitution permits a dissolution as a last resort only when there is no other way of breaking a political impasse other than asking for the judgment of the people. That is why I pray that we will not face a development requiring dissolution of the Diet. We will have full discussions with opposition parties and humbly listen to their opinions. We should not lightly dissolve the Diet unless we ascertain that the public wants the Diet to be dissolved and hopes to exercise its judgment.

I will hold fast to this principled position. Dissolving the Diet is not something which the government should meet as a challenge. Only when it is pushed to the wall with no other choice should the government resort to it. I earnestly hope that this kind of situation will not develop during the coming regular Diet session. To this end, we want to discuss things with opposition parties and I want to ask the opposition Diet members to understand our position and cooperate with us in parliamentary operations.

On the question of holding concurrent upper and lower house elections, the date for the upper house election is set in advance, and the question is whether or not the lower house election will be planned to coincide. We should not try for a double election; I think that is an evil course. But we cannot rule out that kind of coincidence when a political stalemate develops and it becomes necessary to hold the elections of both houses simultaneously. That would be a real coincidence if it ever happened. At any rate, I hope that the government and opposition parties will discuss things well and settle problems so that a situation will not develop which requires the dissolution of the Diet.

[Question] Earlier, you touched on administrative reform. I would like to return to this subject. We presume that you, Mr Prime Minister, will stake your political reputation on administrative reform. How are you going to tackle it? In what concrete way do you intend to bring administrative reform to fruition? Would you tell us about the process in greater detail?

[Answer] First, it is very regrettable that the bill on establishing a national railways management committee was not adopted at the extraordinary Diet session. The extraordinary Diet session froze the recommendations by the National Personnel Authority an unprecedented action in political history. We are very sorry for our government employees, who had to get by without a pay raise. The opposition parties were united in opposing a pay raise for government employees. As a result, our hands were tied, and the passage of the budget and related bills was all we could do. The question of the National Personnel Authority's recommendations has had such a great impact on politics. Although we feel sorry for those affected, we have attained the goal of shelving the recommendations in question. I want to say that that was as far as we could go.

Unless a national railway management committee, which will serve as an organ for reforming the national railways, is organized, reform of the national railways will never start. That is why we hope that the coming regular Diet session will pass the bill.

As for reform of ministries and agencies at the central level, I think the extraordinary Administrative Research Council will submit formal recommendations in the near future. A number of reforms will be carried out in ministries and agencies. In addition to these reforms, what the council is aiming at is internal reforms of various ministries, such as the ministries of transportation, foreign affairs, and health and welfare, so that they can adapt to the present age. The council thinks that these ministries should change themselves from the type of office which is content with the power to issue licenses and permits, proudly holding their official stamps in hand, to that which is more policy-minded. For instance, they should be more concerned with questions like: What kind of transportation is best suited to the country? How do we coordinate land, sea and air transportation? How do we keep a balance in fares? The council is aiming at internal reform in these ministries and making them into policy-minded offices. The same kind of reform plans are proposed for the Health and Welfare Ministry, the Finance Ministry, the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and any other ministries. I think this is a very effective idea. I think it a good idea to let ministries carry out this kind of internal reform freely, within the limit of their present resources.

The question is what to do about local branches and sub-branches of the ministries, namely, "block organizations" under the Financial Bureau of the Finance Ministry, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, the Administrative Management Agency, and so forth. There are also branch offices of the Finance Ministry and the Administrative Management Agency in prefectures. Plans for the reform of these organizations are, in my opinion, very substantial. As soon as we receive formal recommendations from the extraordinary Administrative Research Council, we will make a decision on them at a Cabinet meeting and at an LDP meeting, so that we can execute them.

As for the reform of the monopoly corporation and the telegraph-telephone public corporation, I recently asked Mr Hashimoto, chairman of the LDP Administrative and Fiscal Research Council, to have the LDP reach a conclusion on this issue and work out an outline for reform by spring. Of course, the LDP Council will consult the Cabinet on this. As I said earlier, I asked him to do it with dispatch so that his council will be able to prepare the outline for reform before the coming unified local elections and we can move on the enact the related bill. I also made a similar request to the officials concerned of the Administrative Management Agency. I intend to push the matter with speed. Administrative reform is at last about to enter the stage of implementation. We intend to carry out our public pledge with zest.

[Question] I would like to ask some more questions on the issue of freezing the National Personnel Authority's recommendations. As a result of the freeze, an increase in annuity and retirement pay has been completely suspended in the budget for the new year. The freeze has had a really big impact. In the public's eyes, the government and the LDP look inconsistent. This is because they have frozen the National Personnel Authority's recommendations, whereas they have followed the decision of the Arbitration Board on the national railways, the major target of administrative reform. There is another obscure point. The government used to say that it would not earmark any funds for increasing the government employees' basic pay, but it agreed with the opposition parties just before the end of the last extraordinary Diet session to give a 1-percent pay raise. Would you explain how this happened? Moreover, are you going to fully implement the National Personnel Authority's pay hike recommendations for the 1983 fiscal year?

[Answer] The Arbitration Board's decision was presented to the Diet and the Cabinet by the Central Labor Relations Commission, a kind of quasi-court which mediated in the dispute which the concerned parties had failed to settle by themselves. In other words, the parties to the dispute failed to reach a compromise at the bargaining table and the commission interceded, made a decision on the case and forwarded it to the government and the Diet with a request for action on the decision. So we decided to implement the Arbitration Board's decision.

However, in the case of the National Personnel Authority's recommendations, they fall under an entirely different legal system because they involve pay of government employees. Public servants are employed by the government and are subject to restrictions in exercising their rights as workers. They are different from the employees of the three major public corporations and the five government-run enterprises, who are subject to arbitration.

The National Personnel Authority makes pay recommendations for public servants because they are employees of the government. Under this system, recommendations so made are respected in return for the imposition of restrictions on their labor rights. However, the State Civil Service Act has a provision saying that if it is impossible to implement these recommendations even after all resources have been exhausted, some modification to them may be permissible. This is exactly what we did this time.

The national railways and the government-run forestry enterprise, if I remember correctly, are in the red and their deficits are huge. The monopoly corporation and the telegraph-telephone public corporation are in the black. One enterprise may be predestined to suffer a deficit no matter how hard it works, whereas another can do good business and end up in the black. At any rate, those producing surplus funds should be handled differently from those suffering deficits. It is against the principle of business management to regard equally those that are in the red and those in the black.

Public business corporations, as their name suggests, were organized for the purpose of having them operate under business principles, that is, with efficiency. This makes them different from public servants. From this point of view, we decided to give a lower pay hike to the employees of those government-run enterprises that are in the red than to the employees of those that are not.

On the other hand, the government and opposition parties will further discuss the National Personnel Authority's recommendations for fiscal 1982, as well as for the current fiscal year. However, as far as the recommendations for fiscal 1983 are concerned, we promised the opposition parties that we would earmark funds for a 1-percent raise in response to their strong request towards the end of the last extraordinary Diet session. We did earmark those funds as promised. We did this in deference to the opinion of the opposition parties after consulting them.

As for the question of what will happen to pay for the 1983 fiscal year, I think that the National Personnel Authority will make a recommendation and the government will act upon it after consulting with the Diet.

[Question] I would like to ask your opinion on the question of revising the Constitution. Testifying before the last Diet session, you, Mr Prime Minister, said that this question was not on your political agenda. But, on the other hand, you said that no law is perfect and that you are an advocate of amending the Constitution. This statement may be interpreted as signifying a positive attitude on the question. What is your view of this issue? Do you have any plan to take up this question as a campaign issue in the coming general elections, or in the upper house elections -- that is, in elections at the national level?

[Answer] My recent comments on the constitutional revision issue drew criticism from various quarters. As a liberal, what I had in mind was that I want to see the freedom of speech, the freedom of making comments, and human rights defended and preserved. Attitude on these matters decides the true worth of a liberal. Meanwhile, in a democratic society, nothing should be considered taboo; there should be nothing that people are not allowed to touch. This is my conviction. In the past, however, if a person commented on the Constitution, saying the present one should be preserved or revised -- especially if he said that it should be revised -- he would find himself under fire as if he had violated something sacred. They were regarding the Constitution as something not be touched. Unless this practice is abolished, there can be no democratic development in our society.

Nothing in this world is perfect. Everything should be perceived relatively and developed progressively through talks and discussion. This is the spirit of democracy. Also, the Constitution should not be regarded as an exception. From this point of view, I would say let us discuss the Constitution. Let us study it and review it if necessary. I think that it is a very good thing that the people learn more about the Constitution, and they should be encouraged to do so. If they do so in an honest manner, the foundations of democracy will become firmer, I believe.

Before the Meiji Constitution was adopted, several draft constitutions, including what is known as the Itsukaichi draft, had been prepared. This involved many people. That was a time when our people demonstrated their will for freedom and democracy most passionately. What they did paved the way for democracy in this country, with the Liberal Democratic factions introducing parliamentarism as opposed to clan government. I believe that the most important thing is to arouse this same passion among the people, the passion of bearers of the foundations of democracy. To that end, nothing should be regarded as taboo, I think.

In view of developments at home and abroad, and in view of the present political situation in this country, however, I believe that it is still premature for the government to launch a specific movement for a constitutional revision. Such a movement, if launched, will cause unnecessary confusion. I am against doing anything that will cause unnecessary confusion and, eventually, a political setback. For this reason, I clearly stated that my administration will not include the constitutional revision issue in its political timetable.

[Question] I would like to ask some questions concerning foreign policy and defense. First, on foreign policy: You are scheduled to leave for a Japan-U.S. summit conference on 17 January. Earlier, in discussing the defense budget, you mentioned relations of trust. To build these relations, some concrete actions are necessary to prove such intentions. In the case of defense spending, for instance, will the United States be satisfied with a 6.5-percent increase? There is also the market-opening issue.

Would you once again clarify your stance or policy toward the coming Japan-U.S. summit conference, as it is related to these issues?

[Answer] I regard very highly the role of the United States in the world and pay my respects to the United States for it. But, I think we have to candidly recognize the fact that the United States recently has been somewhat tired economically, that looking after the security of the whole world is becoming too heavy a burden for the United States and that Soviet military expansion in particular has tipped the balance of power, making the United States and the NATO countries begin to feel uneasy.

Japan is a member of the Free World, and as a trading nation, lives on its trade with the Free World, and in fact, with the whole world. What is most important to trade is peace. When war breaks out, trade will vanish. Accordingly, nothing is more important to Japan than peace. In this sense, the whole world must cooperate and we must do our part in order to maintain peace. When we signed the security treaty, we promised that as long as the Japanese archipelago is concerned, we will defend ourselves, but we will also cooperate with the United States to defend what it cannot defend alone.

Accordingly, the United States is a special country and our relations with the United States are different from those with other countries. The whole world is stepping up defense efforts -- NATO has increased its defense spending by 3 percent annually in real terms, the NATO commander last October requested a 4-percent increase, U.S. defense spending has increased by about 5 to 6 percent, and that of the Soviet Union by about 11 percent. Japan cannot get away with the same old idea under these circumstances. As a consequence, a joint communique was issued after the Suzuki-Reagan talks, with Japan promising to make greater defense efforts. Once a promise is made, we must honor it. Otherwise, Japan's honor will be tarnished. That is why I have clearly stated that Japan will keep the promise made at the Suzuki-Reagan talks. Cooperation between states will not continue unless there is a relationship of trust stemming from the honoring of promises made. It is in this fashion that I understand the defense issue.

In view of the defense efforts of the NATO countries and the United States and of the Soviet defensive buildup, Japan must make appropriate, necessary efforts. In the past, Japan has not necessarily made a level of defense efforts 100 percent acceptable to other countries. We must admit the fact that Japan has been criticized. That is why we think we should make a level of efforts tolerably acceptable to other countries and thus enhance their trust in Japan, believing that our defense efforts will add to mutual trust, an important factor in expanding trade. With this belief in mind, we have taken the drastic action of increasing defense spending by 6.5 percent.

To put it differently, Japan used to live in a small house, but now that it has moved into a larger house, it must pay a larger insurance premium. Should we not realize this fact? Defense spending, in a sense, is something like an insurance premium we pay, just in case. I want our fellow citizens to understand that the insurance premium will increase when we move from a smaller house to a larger one, and to cooperate with us. I believe that although there may be some time lag, our defensive efforts will eventually help us solve trade problems, enhance our international credibility, and improve Japan's image.

[Question] The next question is related to the subject you have just discussed. It concerns the question of Japan's cooperation with the United States in military technology, which may become a topic during your coming visit to the United States. Efforts to coordinate internal views on the matter have been made since last year. How is this issue going to be settled? There is also another matter of great concern, namely, the question of sea lane defense. What is your basic stance toward this question? I would like you to comment on these two issues.

[Answer] There are two sides to the issue of military cooperation with the United States, or that of exchanging military technology. On the one hand, we have the three principles banning arms exports, which prohibit arms exports to the communist world and countries locked in military conflicts. There is also a unified view reached under the Miki Cabinet that arms exports be curbed as much as possible. There is also a Diet resolution. On the other hand, under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, we have received a great deal of military technology from the United States. Since the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] were established, the United States has provided cooperation in military technology by going so far as to give us very important secret weapons, such as the Phantoms we now have, P-3C's, missiles, and various weapons mounted on escort ships. It has even allowed us to produce weapons under U.S. licenses.

That is why the United States has pointed out that Japan has provided no military technology at all and that this is unfair. The United States has told Japan that now that it has become a big economic power as we see it today, and its technology has reached a considerably high level, it is high time for Japan to reconsider the matter. So I think we should weigh the matter.

The entire government, including the Finance Ministry, the MITI, the Foreign Ministry and the Science and Technology Agency, is studying ways to harmonize security needs with the existing principles. I think the government should come up with a conclusion as soon as possible and present it to our fellow citizens and the members of the Diet.

As for the sealane issue, Japan and the United States have agreed to study and consult on the question of how to handle the sealane issue, and we want to study and consult on the matter with the United States.

[Question] The next question concerns trade friction. It is anticipated that trade friction will get worse rather than subside this year. The Ministerial Council for Economic Measures is slated to meet on 13 January to discuss the matter. What measures are under consideration? In addition, do you have any plan to do something about imports of beef and oranges, two items of interest?

[Answer] To defuse various economic friction-causing issues, Japan has drastically lowered tariff rates on about 330 items beginning with the second market-opening package adopted last May and another one adopted by the present Cabinet last December. Included in these items are cigarettes, biscuits, chocolate and aluminum baseball bats. There is a problem of inspection involving imported aluminum baseball bats. I think we have gone very far. I feel sorry for those who are affected. But we had to take these measures to avoid being isolated from the rest of the world, for it is a most dangerous thing for Japan to be ostracized by the world.

On 13 January, the council will discuss problems involving procedures, standards, import permits, and so forth. Take the aluminum baseball bat problem, for instance. Various restrictions were imposed on imports of foreign aluminum bats on the grounds that their safety features were not up to standard. At working-level negotiations, the two sides reached virtual agreement that if Japanese officials inspect U.S. factories and rule that their products are safe, then aluminum bats made by these designated factories will be freely imported to Japan. But when I suggested that imports of things like aluminum bats be liberalized, [MITI] Minister Yamanaka took a bold measure and decided to liberalize aluminum bat imports. I appraise him very highly. I think it may affect the business firms involved, but we have to take appropriate measures.

Import procedures and the question of standard cut across all items, such as cosmetics and drugs. With a view to boldly correcting cumbersome procedures and the gruff way of handling imports, I will have measures worked out by the 13 January meeting of the Ministerial Council for Economic Measures and continue our efforts along that line.

I want the Esaki Research Commission to examine procedural and other problems on each item and simplify import procedures by devising a package procedure, depending on circumstances. I am not sure whether a system like that of designating factories will be adopted or not. On this problem, Chairman of the Research Commission Esaki is going to determinedly study this issue.

The "oto", meaning trade ombudsmen, are not very active. The other day Esaki approached me with a proposal for organizing a committee to oversee ombudsmen so that its members can go to the field to sternly pick out negligent or loose ombudsmen. At present, the Administrative Management Agency is carrying out special inspections, and the proposal in question calls for creating a watchdog committee to keep an eye on the agency's inspectors. I have enthusiastically agreed to the proposal. In this way I want to vigorously move on toward defusing trade frictions.

It is a most dishonorable thing for the Japanese to be called "cunning," "unfair." I do not think we Japanese are cunning. If we are regarded as being cunning by some misunderstanding, Japanese politicians must make efforts to correct this misunderstanding for the sake of Japan's honor. I will do my best, for Japan's honor, to eradicate from the earth the charge that the Japanese are unfair or cunning.

[Question] I would like to ask about the question of economic cooperation between Japan and the ROK. The failure to reach agreement on the question of economic cooperation over the past 18 months seems to be the greatest bottleneck in repairing Japan-ROK relations. I would like to ask you, Mr Prime Minister, what kind of action you are going to take this year on this issue.

[Answer] The ROK is a very important country, which is geographically nearest to us and with whom we share the same culture to a large measure. It is most unfortunate to have friction with our nearest neighbor, and it is right to make best friends with the nearest neighbor. In this sense, I would like to do as much as possible, through mutual efforts, to solve problems concerning traditional Japan-ROK relations and the current stalemate in these relations. When I took over as prime minister. I called up President Chon Tu-hwan to say hello to him. The president warmly responded by saying: Let us cooperate with each other from a broad perspective. I want to build this kind of atmosphere gradually. Recently, a group of wonderful parliamentarians visited Japan to attend a conference with their Japanese counterparts. I think that meeting also did a lot to improve the atmosphere. We need to take this and other kinds of steps one at a time.

President Chon Tu-hwan has released Kim Tae-chung and let him go to the United States. He took this action on his own initiative -- and it was no direct bearing on Japan, for it is the ROK's domestic affair. However, Kim Tae-chaung's abduction occurred in Japan, so I welcome the action President Chon has taken. While watching President Chon Tu-hwan take these and other measures, I want to make gradual efforts to improve the neighborly, friendly relations between the two countries.

[Question] The next question concerns Japan-USSR relations. The successive cabinets have used the 1973 Japan-USSR joint statement as a basis for improving Japan-USSR relations. What do you think about this? Last year then Prime Minister Suzuki made an inspection near the northern territories. Do you also plan to do the same thing? I would like to hear your views on these two questions.

[Answer] Concerning Japan-USSR relations, I would like to say that unfortunate events such as the Polish and Afghan incidents have worsened the world situations and resulted in cold relations between the Soviet Union and Japan as well. Under these circumstances, I realize the need for the Soviet Union to correct its positions where it is necessary to do so.

In particular, Japan is most deeply concerned with the Soviet Union because of the fact that it has been occupying our northern territories.

Speaking of Japan's position, we want to resolve the territorial issue and conclude a peace treaty with the Soviet Union. It is a matter of course that Japan will stick to this position. However, in terms of diplomacy, it is also important to cultivate the way for a dialogue and to improve relations with a party that is exceedingly tough and hard to deal with.

When I view the Soviet Union with this importance in mind, I feel that the newly-emerged Andropov regime in the Soviet Union appears to be pursuing a "smiling" policy throughout the world. For example, it is now moving toward closer relations with China. I will closely observe this move and the Soviet attitude toward SALT or START negotiations. This is my present position. I believe that the most practical and effective way is for Foreign Minister Gromyko to quickly visit Japan. Japan has sent its foreign ministers to the Soviet Union several times, but no Soviet foreign minister has ever visited Japan. This is rather abnormal. If the Soviet Union wants to normalize relations, I believe that Mr Gromyko should quickly come to Japan because it is his turn to make a visit.

[Unidentified voice] The press conference has lasted a little longer than scheduled. We would like to conclude it at this point. Thank you very much.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES FISCAL 1983 BUDGET

OW300835 Tokyo KYODO in English 0800 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] Tokyo, Dec 30, KYODO -- The government Thursday announced a fiscal 1983 "austerity" budget putting top priority on defense and overseas economic aid and sacrificing social welfare and other domestic programs.

The tight budget called for yen 50,379.6 billion (dollar 209.9 billion) in general account expenditures, a (mere) 1.4 percent increase over the initial fiscal 1982 budget. The growth rate was the lowest since 1955 when the general account budget was pared down by 0.8 percent from the year before.

With costs of bond issues and subsidies for local governments excluded, net expenditures represented virtual "zero growth" at yen 32.619 trillion (dollar 135.9 billion), compared with yen 32.620 trillion (dollar 135.9 billion) in the current fiscal year.

Appropriations proposed for the fiscal loan and investment program, the so-called second budget under Japan's two-tier spending system, came to yen 20,702.9 billion (dollar 86.26 billion), up 2 percent over the previous fiscal year. This was the lowest rate of increase since 1958 when the program grew by 1.6 percent from the previous year.

Among the items for outlays, defense expenditures stood out. After five days of tough negotiations involving relevant ministers and ruling Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) leaders, the government finally fixed defense outlays for the next fiscal year at yen 2,754.2 billion (dollar 11.48 billion).

The figure represents a 6.5 percent or yen 168.1 billion (dollar 700 million) rise over the current fiscal year.

This boosts the ratio of defense expenditures to the government-projected fiscal 1983 nominal gross national product (GNP) to a postwar high of 0.98 percent, close to the 1 percent "ceiling" that has been kept in the past.

At a Cabinet meeting held on November 5, 1974, the government headed by then Prime Minister Takeo Miki decided the upper limit of defense expenditures should not exceed 1 percent of GNP "for the time being."

With a conspicuous rise in defense expenditures for the next fiscal year, however, it is certain that Japan's defense outlays will top this ceiling in fiscal 1984, creating a serious political issue.

Overseas economic aid was given the highest growth rate of 7 percent to yen 504.26 billion (dollar 2.1 billion).

On the revenue side, the government envisaged yen 32.32 trillion (dollar 134.6 billion) in tax revenues, 11.8 percent less than the initial fiscal 1982 budget.

With tax revenues -- the main pillar of government revenue sources -- expected to decline, it managed to raise yen 4.72 trillion (dollar 19.7 billion) in non-tax revenues.

Further, in a bid to make up for expected revenue shortages, the government planned to float a total of yen 13.345 trillion (dollar 55.6 billion) worth of national bonds in the new fiscal year starting next April 1.

The proposed bond issue is far greater than the yen 10.44 trillion (dollar 43.5 billion) issued under the original fiscal 1982 budget.

The ratio of bond sales to total revenues thus will rise to 26.5 percent, up 5.5 percentage points from the initial fiscal 1982 budget.

The outstanding national bonds will total yen 109.8 trillion (dollar 457.5 billion) at the end of fiscal 1983 (March 1984), topping yen 100 trillion (dollar 417 billion) for the first time.

Other major points of the budget follow:

-- Social welfare showed a minimal growth of 0.6 percent, the lowest rate of increase since fiscal 1955 -- at yen 9,139.8 billion (dollar 38.08 billion). Both welfare pension and national pension were allowed no increase.

-- Public works spending was pegged at yen 6,371.3 billion (dollar 26.55 billion), meaning no increase for the third straight year.

-- No income tax cut for the sixth straight year.

-- A yen 734 million (dollar 3.06 million) fund was created for the first time for national and private-sector stockpiling of seven rare metals -- nickel, chromium, cobalt, molybdenum, manganese and vanadium.

FISCAL 1983 BUDGET (in millions of yen)

	FISCAL 1983	FISCAL 1982	PCT CHANGE
Revenues			
Tax and Stamp	32,315,000	36,624,000	-11.8
Others	4,717,898	2,575,587	83.2
Govt Bonds	13,345,000	10,440,000	27.8
Surplus Transferred	1,705	41,250	-95.9
Total	50,379,603	49,680,807	1.4
Expenditures			
Govt Bond Servicing	8,192,460	7,829,944	4.6
Grants to Local Govts	7,315,144	9,230,921	-20.8
General Outlays	32,619,506	32,619,972	0.0
Repayment To National Treasury	2,252,493	---	---
Total	50,379,603	49,680,837	1.4

BRIEFS

AID TO MALI -- Tokyo, Dec 17, KYODO -- Japan Friday agreed to provide yen 200 million (\$800,000) in grant aid to Mali for agricultural development, the government announced. The announcement said the agreement was concluded in Bamako, the capital of the west African country. The money will be used to buy fertilizers and agricultural machinery, it added. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 1142 GMT 17 Dec 82 OW]

AID TO ZAMBIA -- Tokyo, Dec 20, KYODO -- Japan will give yen 1,273 million (about dollar five million) worth of aid to Zambia, the Foreign Ministry said Monday. Diplomatic notes on the aid -- yen 800 million for road construction and yen 473 million worth of Japanese rice -- were exchanged in Lusaka between officials of the two governments. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0727 GMT 20 Dec 82 OW]

AID TO BOLIVIA -- Tokyo, Dec 23, KYODO -- Japan will give yen 300 million (about dollar 1.2 million) in aid to Bolivia to help increase food production, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday. It said notes on the grant were exchanged in La Paz between officials of the two governments. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0308 GMT 23 Dec 82 OW]

KIM IL-SONG'S NEW YEAR ADDRESS TO NATION

SK110356 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0354 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Pyongyang, January 1 (KCNA) -- Follows the full text of the New Year address made by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on January 1, 1983:

Comrades:

We are greeting a hopeful new year 1983, with a high sense of dignity and great pride in having made 1983 the most glorious year in the history of our peoples revolutionary struggle. On this New Year's morning our country is boiling with boundless joy and revolutionary optimism, and our people have embarked upon a grandiose march with a fresh hope and confidence.

On the occasion of the new year, which will shine with fresh victories and glories, I would like to offer warm congratulations to our heroic working class, cooperative farmers, valiant officers and men of the People's Army, working intellectuals and all the rest of the people who are devoting everything to the struggle for the revolution and construction under the banner of the chuche idea.

I also would like to send militant New Year greetings to the revolutionaries, patriotic democrats, youth and students, and the people in all walks of life in South Korea, who are determinedly fighting for an independent and democratic society in South Korea and for the acceleration of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, in the teeth of the difficulties caused by the colonial rule of U.S. imperialists and the continued fascist repression by their stooges.

My New Year greetings also go to the 700,000 Koreans in Japan and all our overseas brothers, who are vigorously struggling in far-off foreign lands for their democratic national rights, for the benefits of their socialist homeland and for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, with a high sense of honour and pride as overseas citizens of chuche Korea. 1982 was a very important year which was replete with events of great significance in our people's social and political life.

Last year the revolutionary enthusiasm of the entire people was higher than ever before, and in this political atmosphere, we successfully conducted the elections to the Seventh Supreme People's Assembly and formed the new government of the republic and augustly commemorated the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the heroic Korean People's Army, the revolutionary armed forces of our party. Through SPA elections, the celebration of the 50th birthday of the Korean People's Army and various other important political functions, we fully demonstrated the unbreakable unity and solidarity of the whole party and all the people rallied solidly around the party Central Committee and further strengthened our revolutionary forces.

Bearing in mind our glorious revolutionary history of more than half a century and the immortal exploits performed by our party, all our party members and working people deepened their confidence in our party and renewed their firm resolve to fight out unyieldingly along the revolutionary road indicated by the party. The people's absolute trust in our party, the indestructible unity and solidarity between the party and the masses and the unbounded devotion of party members and working people to the revolutionary cause constitute a sure guarantee for the ultimate victory of our revolution. 1982 was a year of worthwhile struggle.

It marked the start of a new revolutionary upswing in building socialism.

Last year our heroic working class and all the other working people launched a vigorous struggle for a new speed of advance, the "Speed of the 80s", in response to the militant call of the party. In the heat of this intense struggle the creativity and revolutionary zeal of the working people rose higher than ever, a great change took place on all fronts of socialist construction, and socialist construction entered a new period of revolutionary upswing, the whole country rushing forward with a greater momentum towards the magnificent goal set forth by the party.

A great success was made in the dynamic struggle to implement the second seven-year plan ahead of schedule in all sectors of the national economy and attain the ten long-term objectives of socialist economic construction proposed by the party at its sixth congress. Thanks to the creative and devoted efforts of the working people, many factories and enterprises, shops and workteams had a legitimate pride in implementing the second seven-year plan more than two years ahead of schedule and firm material and technical foundations were laid which will enable many sectors of the national economy to attain the ten long-term objectives of socialist economic construction.

Last year the total industrial output value grew by 16.8 per cent as against 1981, and many industries, including the metallurgical industry, succeeded in increasing their production capacities through the reconstruction and expansion of their factories and enterprises. In hearty response to the decision of the historic Hamhung plenary meeting of the party Central Committee, the workers in the mining and construction industries dynamically pushed ahead with the ambitious projects to reconstruct and expand nonferrous ore mines, including the Komdok general mining enterprise, thereby making a giant stride in their efforts to build up nonferrous-metal production centres.

By making strained efforts with steadfast loyalty to the party, our valorous builders and helpers erected grand monumental structures and splendidly laid down new streets in Pyongyang, thus making our revolutionary capital city more grandiose and magnificent, and they vigorously carried on the construction of the Nampo lock gate, the reclamation of tidelands and other colossal projects to transform nature.

Last year the agricultural sector achieved a proud success that gladdened our people very much. Our agricultural workers who are unboundedly loyal to the party successfully overcame unfavourable climatic conditions and applied the *chuche* farming method, with the result that they gathered in an unprecedentedly bountiful harvest, thereby hitting the 9.5-million-ton grain production target at last. This signifies an epochal progress in the effort to reach the 15-million-ton grain production target and is a brilliant victory achieved by the agricultural workers under the correct leadership of our party and with the assistance of the whole nation.

Our scientists and technicians, who are deeply conscious of the honourable duty devolving upon them in socialist construction, adhered firmly to the *chuche* stand in conducting energetic scientific researches and made valuable inventions and reached worthy achievements, thus contributing greatly to the country's development in science and to the *chuche* orientation, modernization and scientization of the national economy.

Allow me to extend my warm thanks to the workers, farmers, soldiers, working intellectuals and the rest of the people who performed brilliant feats in the building of socialism last year, by fully displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and strenuous effort out of intense loyalty to the party and the revolution.

1982 was a historic year when the external relations of our party and the government of our republic were further expanded and international solidarity with our revolution increased as never before.

Thanks to the positive external activities of our party and the government of our republic, our relations of friendship and cooperation with socialist, non-aligned and Third World countries developed still further and the solidarity movements to support our peoples cause of national reunification were conducted briskly on a worldwide scale. Unprecedentedly many foreign heads of state and celebrities visited our country and expressed their unreserved support to our just revolutionary cause and powerfully encouraged our people in their struggle. This constitutes a shining victory of our party's foreign policy and a proud success in its external activities.

Hailing the new year, I offer my warm congratulations and greetings to the progressive people and our friends the world over who give active support and encouragement to our revolutionary cause.

Comrades, today our revolution is advancing very fast, and the struggle to model the whole society on the chuche idea is developing onto new heights. This year we must give a greater impetus to the revolution and construction under the banner of the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions and make great strides in the struggle to revolutionize, working-classize and intellectualize all members of the society and further accelerate socialist economic construction.

Energetically speeding up socialist economic construction is the most important revolutionary task confronting our party and people today. Through uninterrupted innovations and continued advance in socialist economic construction, this year we must fulfill the second seven-year plan ahead of time and open up a clear prospect of attaining the ten long-term objectives of socialist economic construction for the 1980's.

This year we must give priority to the extracting industries. Definitely keeping the extracting industries ahead of the manufacturing industry is a consistent policy of our party and an urgent demand of the national economy at the moment. This year we must put great efforts into the extracting industries so as to shore them up determinedly.

Coal is food for industry. Only when the smooth production and supply of coal are ensured, can the raw material, fuel and power questions be solved successfully and production be normalized in every field of the national economy. In coal mining we must reconstruct and expand the Anju District coal mining complex along modern lines and concentrate our efforts on many mines in the western districts and those in the northern districts, which have great production capacities, thereby bringing about a big upswing in coal production.

I believe that the workers, technicians, office employees and leading functionaries in coal mining will wage a heroic struggle with an unflagging revolutionary spirit to markedly increase the coal output and thus repay the high confidence and expectations of the party.

In ore mining we must step up the work of increasing production capacity of the Komdok general mining enterprise and put great efforts on the mines in the Tanchon District and Yanggang Province, thereby laying firm foundations for attaining the production goal of 1.5 million tons of non-ferrous metals ahead of schedule.

The power industry is one of the important branches for which we should exert much effort this year. In this industry we must maximize the generation of electricity through an effective use of the existing generating capacities, while at the same time endeavouring strenuously to create more generating capacities. We must vigorously push ahead with the construction of new power stations, including the one in Taechon, and finish the expansion projects of the Pukchang and Chongchongang thermal power stations as soon as possible.

The chemical, metallurgical, machine-building and other manufacturing industries should be more rapidly developed.

The chemical industry is an important sector which needs particularly great efforts in developing light industry and agriculture to increase the production of consumer goods and cereals and quickly improve the people's living standard. The production of various chemical goods including synthetic fibres, plastics and chemical fertilizers must be decisively boosted by improving and reinforcing chemical factories and operating them to capacity.

The metallurgical industry must build up chuche-oriented iron production centres, actively introduce the method of iron production relying on domestic fuel and normalize the production of iron and steel on a high level.

The workers, technicians and leadership personnel of the machine industry must zealously implement the party's policy for a widespread use of pressing and shape-forging and for bringing about a revolutionary change in welding and in the manufacture of insulation so as to develop the machine-building industry onto a higher stage and ensure the production of machine tools, extracting equipment and other modern machines and ordered equipment.

The workers in light industry must normalize production both at national and local-industry factories with the use of all reserves and possibilities and thus turn out various high-quality daily necessities and foodstuffs in greater quantities for the people.

For an upswing in production and construction, transport must go ahead of other spheres. In the field of railway transport they must produce more locomotives and wagons, repair wagons promptly, reinforce railways, establish strict discipline and a well-regulated system of directing train operations, and thus satisfy the growing demands of the national economy for transport. Road and water transport must be developed along with railway transport, and the policy for cablecar, conveyer-belt and pipeline transport thoroughly implemented.

Another giant stride should be made in agricultural production this year. Grain precisely means communism. Our party has regarded it very important in building socialism and communism to produce large quantities of cereals and appealed to attain the grain production target before any other of the ten long-term objectives of socialist economic construction.

In the agricultural sector they must zealously expand the cultivated land, accelerate the technical revolution, thoroughly implement the chuche farming method, and thus win a decisive victory in the struggle to attain the grain production goal under the second seven-year plan.

In order to successfully carry out the gigantic tasks of socialist economic construction facing us this year, we must intensify the struggle for the "speed of the 80's".

This is a worthy struggle to bring about a fresh upswing in socialist construction in the same spirit and mettle as displayed in the years of the great upswing of Chollima and a great forward movement of the working masses based on their unusually high revolutionary determination and enthusiasm. Party organizations at all levels must develop a vigorous struggle for the "speed of the 80's" and ensure that all their members and the working people bring about continuous innovations in socialist construction with intense loyalty to the party and the revolution and by fully displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and strenuous effort.

If they are to accelerate dynamically socialist economic construction, economic officials must enhance their sense of responsibility and role.

They are the masters of socialist economic construction who are responsible for the nation's economic life and its management; and they are commanding personnel of the revolution. Deeply conscious of their heavy responsibility to the party and the revolution, they should all efficiently organize economic work and guide production to conform with the intentions of the party and the requirements of the law of the socialist economy.

The revolutionary tasks confronting us this year are very difficult and tremendous. But, as long as there are our party's correct leadership and our people infinitely loyal to the party and the revolution, we are sure to perform any difficult revolutionary task with credit.

Let us all fight vigorously to win a greater victory in socialist construction and hasten the country's independent, peaceful reunification, firmly united behind the party Central Committee under the revolutionary banner of the chuche idea.

Exchanges Greetings With Leaders

SK021043 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] Pyongyang, January 2 (CKNA) -- The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, exchanged New Year's cards with party and state leaders of various countries on the occasion of the new year 1983.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song received New Year's cards from:

Hu Yaobang, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the CPC and chairman of the Military Commission of the CPC Central Committee, and Ye Jianying, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China;

Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union;

Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Romanian Socialist Republic;

Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and president of the State Council of the Bulgarian People's Republic;

Gustav Husak, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and president of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic;
Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic;
Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, and Pal Losonczi, president of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic;
Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic, and Henryk Jablonski, president of the State Council of the Polish People's Republic;
Ramiz Alia, president of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania;
Truong Chinh, chairman of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam;
Kaysone Phomvihane, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party;
Mohammad Ziaul Haq, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;
U San Yu, president of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma;
Abdul Fazal Mohammad Assanubbin Chowdhury, president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh;
Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan;
Chengara Betil Devan Nair, president of the Republic of Singapore;
Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic;
Habib Bourguiba, president of the Republic of Tunisia;
Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, emir of state of Kuwait;
Amin al-Jumayyil, president of the Republic of Lebanon;
Spyros Kyprianou, president of the Republic of Cyprus;
Julius K. Nyerere, president of the United Republic of Tanzania;
Ahmed Sekou Toure, secretary-general of the Democratic Party of Guinea and president of the Guinean Revolutionary People's Republic;
Canaan Banana, president of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Robert G. Mugabe, prime minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe;
A. Milton Obote, president of the Republic of Uganda;
Siaka Probyn Stevens, president of the Republic of Sierra Leone;
Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, president of the Republic of Burundi;
Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, leader of the People's National Congress of Guyana and president of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana;
Leabua Jonathan, prime minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho;
Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator, and Sergio Ramirez Mercado and Rafael Cordova Rivas, members of the Council of the Government of National Reconstruction of the Republic of Nicaragua;
Hernan Siles Zuazo, president of the Republic of Bolivia;
Agatha Barbara, president of the Republic of Malta, and
Dominic Mintoff, prime minister of the Republic of Malta;
Rudolf Kirchschlaeger, president of the Republic of Austria;
Antonio Ramalho Eanes, president of the Republic of Portugal;
Mauno Koivisto, president of the Republic of Finland; and
Margrethe the Second, Queen of the Kingdom of Denmark.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song sent New Year's cards to them.

Meets With CGDK's Sihanouk

SK010455 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Pyongyang, January 1 (KCNA) -- The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, together with his wife, met His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Democratic Kampuchea, and madame on December 31 when the latter called on him to present him New Year greetings. Present on the occasion were Yim Nollo, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Democratic Kampuchea in Pyongyang, and others.

Minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u and his wife, Premier Yi Chong-ok and his wife, Vice-President Pak Song-chol and his wife, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Ho Tam and Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kim Chae-suk were also present.

After congratulating the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on the new year, His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk presented a flower basket to him, wishing him a long life in good health.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this and had a conversation with His Royal Highness Samdech in a cordial atmosphere. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song arranged a dinner for His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Attends Pyongyang Celebration

SK010510 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Pyongyang, January 1 (KCNA) -- A grand New Year celebration of Pyongyang schoolchildren was held at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium on the afternoon of December 31, ushering in the hopeful new year 1983. The great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song attended there.

A picture of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song overlooking the landscape of the fatherland on Mt. Paektu, the holy mountain of revolution, was placed in the entrance hall of the indoor stadium. The great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song entered the stadium while the band struck up the welcome music. That moment enthusiastic cheers of hurrah burst forth from among the schoolchildren overflowing the entrance hall and raging waves of flowers rolled over them.

Kindergarten and schoolchildren extended New Year's greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and presented him bouquets of flowers. He congratulated the kindergarten and schoolchildren on the new year.

Attending the New Year celebration together with schoolchildren and working people in the city were members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee, vice-premiers of the Administration Council, members and alternate members of the party Central Committee in Pyongyang, department directors of the party Central Committee, chairmen of commissions and ministers of the Administration Council, leading functionaries of working people's organizations, generals of the Korean People's Army, men of science, education, culture, art, public health and the press, anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters and bereaved families of anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs, heroes of the republic and those who rendered meritorious services for the state.

His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Democratic Kampuchea, and madame, and his party on visit to our country were invited to the celebration,

Yi Chin-kyu, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), and members of Chongnyon delegations staying in the homeland were also present. Also present on invitation were diplomatic envoys and embassy officials of different countries in Pyongyang and foreign guests staying in Korea.

When the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song appeared in the box amid the welcome music, stormy cheers of hurrah and thunderous applause swept the stadium. Schoolchildren presented to him a basket of flowers carrying their boundless reverence.

The New Year performance of the schoolchildren began. The performers sang emotional songs about their great honor and pride in growing stoutly as reliable successors to the revolutionary cause of chuche, enjoying boundless happiness in the tender bosom of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and our party and proud successes achieved by our people in the sacred cause of modelling the whole of society on the chuche idea, and impressively showed the firm determination of the schoolchildren to succeed the generation of loyalty under the guidance of the glorious party.

The performance closed with a beautiful rhythm of a dance to the accomplishment of a chorus of the song "Long Life and Good Health to the Leader" which was sung in deep reverence, with a portrait of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song projected on the backdrop of the stage. The cheers of hurrah again burst forth when the performance ended.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song acknowledged the cheers of the crowd and congratulated the schoolchildren on their successful New Year performance.

KIM IL-SONG GREET'S 'ARAFAT ON PLO ANNIVERSARY

SK010818 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0648 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Pyongyang, December 31 (KCNA) -- The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of greetings on December 31 to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and commander-in-chief of the Palestine Revolutionary Armed Forces, on the 18th anniversary of the start of the Palestinian revolution.

The message reads:

I extend warm felicitations and militant greetings on behalf of the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people and on my own to you, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Palestinian people and resistance fighters on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the start of the Palestinian revolution.

Since the start of the revolution, the Palestinian revolutionary forces have unyieldingly traversed the road of struggle against the incessant aggressive and repressive manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists and the Zionists and, in this course, strengthened their ranks politically and militarily.

The Palestinian people and resistance fighters under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation headed by you are now waging a valiant struggle for the achievement of their legitimate national rights including the right to return home and the rights to self-determination and to found an independent state.

The Korean people actively support the just struggle of the Palestinian people to take back their lost homeland and will fight shoulder to shoulder with them till the final victory.

Believing that the friendly and cooperative relations between the Korean and Palestinian peoples will grow stronger and develop through the common struggle against the imperialists and their lackeys, I take this opportunity to heartily wish you and the Palestine Liberation Organisation greater success in the fulfilment of the sacred cause of the Palestinian people.

DPRK GREETs ANNIVERSARY OF CUBAN REVOLUTION

Kim Il-song Greets Castro

SK010843 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0642 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Pyongyang, December 31 (KCNA) -- The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of greetings on December 31 to Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

The message reads:

On the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution, I, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people and on my own, extend warm congratulations to you and, through you, to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and the government and people of the Republic of Cuba.

Since the victory of the revolution the fraternal Cuban people have made big advance in the work for consolidating the material and technical foundations of socialism and increasing the defence capacity of the country, valiantly frustrating the ceaseless aggression, intervention, subversive manoeuvres and sabotages of the U.S. imperialists. We are rejoiced at this.

I am convinced that the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two parties, governments and peoples will grow stronger and develop in the future through the common struggle against imperialism and for the victory of the cause of socialism.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish you and your people great success in the struggle for defending the gains of the revolution and implementing the decisions of the Second Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Ho Tam Sends Message

SK030419 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0341 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Pyongyang, January 3 (KCNA) -- Foreign Minister Ho Tam sent a message to Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, foreign minister of the Republic of Cuba, greeting the 24th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution. The message expressed full support to and solidarity with the fraternal Cuban people who are valiantly struggling, not yielding to the constant threat by the U.S. imperialists. It wished the foreign minister and the Cuban people greater success in the struggle for implementing the decisions of the second congress of the Communist Party of Cuba.

O Chin-u Greets Raul Castro

SK030416 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0337 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Pyongyang, January 3 (KCNA) -- General O Chin-u, minister of Peoples Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba, on the 24th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations forged between the armies of the two countries in the common struggle against imperialism and for the victory of socialism would grow stronger and develop, the message wished the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the officers and men of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces greater success in the work for increasing the defence capacity of the country.

Hwang Chang-yop Greets Counterpart

SK030412 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0333 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Pyongyang, January 3 (KCNA) -- Hwang Chang-yop, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, sent a message of greetings to Flavio Bravo Pardo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Power of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

The Korean people are rejoiced as over their own over the successes made by the Cuban people in the revolution and construction since the victory of the revolution, the message said.

It expressed the belief that the friendly relations between the two peoples would grow stronger and develop in the future and wished the president greater success in his work.

BRIEFS

LSWYK DELEGATION BACK -- Pyongyang, December 30 -- The delegation of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea headed by Vice-Chairman of its Central Committee Son Ki-hak came back home from a visit to the Soviet Union on December 29. It was met at the airport by Vice-Chairman of the LSWYK Central Committee Pak Chong-son and an official of the Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang. [Text] [Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 30 Dec 82 SK]

PRESIDENT CHON TU-HWAN'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

SK010233 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Jan 83 p 4

[Text] My sixty million fellow countrymen at home and abroad:

Having seen off the Year of the Dog which brought us both rewards and regrets aplenty and filled with new hopes, we now greet the dawning of the Year of the Boar.

I pray that the new year will be much more auspicious for all of you than any past year and that all families will brim with peace, harmony and happiness throughout the coming year. I also wish ardently that heaven will always look kindly after this land so that the future of our rising country will be even brighter and that all of you, my fellow citizens, may attain your dreams.

In particular, I would genuinely like to console our brethren in the North who are unable to share with us a free and comfortable life. I pray from the bottom of my heart that 1983 will greatly expedite the attainment of reunification that will permit citizens in the South and the North to join hands in planning and building for a better tomorrow for the entire nation.

During the past year, all of you toiled hard to ensure the continuing development of the nation and society, as well as your families and yourselves. Although external circumstances for this country were not always favorable, we were neither discouraged nor stalled in our pursuit of advancement; rather, we took even more vigorous strides forward, triumphing overall obstacles. The situation enveloping the Korean Peninsula became even tenser last year as the result of persistent scheming by those opposed to national reconciliation and democratic unification. However, we turned this into a stimulus to heighten our consciousness, thereby succeeding in strengthening national security and social stability.

It is true that we were anguished by several out-breaks of impropriety and wrongdoing that were reminiscent of the old era and ran counter to our expectations for the new age. The root causes of such undersirable phenomena are, however, being progressively swept away by a tidal wave of popular censure. Furthermore, despite a horde of difficulties, the economic conditions of the country were definitely improved through concerted national efforts -- so much so that everyone can now see changes for the better. We achieved a single-digit inflation rate without much trouble, even though initially everyone thought it would be exceedingly difficult. Moreover, we attained a six-percent growth -- a very precious achievement considering the world-wide recession and domestic business doldrums.

Our achievements last year were not fortuitous developments; rather, they were the result of the hard work of a firmly united citizenry. Our determination was unflagging, our wisdom came into full play and our spirit of teamwork was strong. As a deserving reward for these, 1982 concluded with rich fruition.

It is my firm belief that the full credit for such achievements must go to all of you who faithfully carried out your assigned tasks in various fields of activity. I wish, therefore, to express my profound respect and gratitude for your devoted endeavors in the recent past.

As you may know well, the rest of the world is even more surprised at our recent accomplishments than we are. Many developed and developing countries evidently did their best last year to turn their economies around, but, unfortunately, their growth turned out to be either flat or even negative. This is why they look at us with even greater envy and amazement than before.

Of course, we must not become conceited or contented because of such praise.

And yet, I think the time has come for us to entertain considerable confidence in our national destiny and inner resources, now that we are given positive ratings by other countries in spite of the harsh reality of the international community that nations generally tend to severely begrudge the praise of others.

Only some 10 years ago, Korea was counted among the less developed countries. But with our scarcely being aware of it, we have now come under the world limelight as a front-runner among developing nations. During the chaos merely three years ago, everyone was greatly worried about the future of Korea. However, we quickly restored stability and, moreover, have been recording faster development than countries that have never experienced such chaos. This is an eloquent testimony to the greatness of the Korean people. There is no reason that we should not believe in our own greatness and inner resources that are recognized by others. To correctly know our own strength and potential and have unwavering faith in them is one key to accelerating our progress.

We live in an age of democracy in which every citizen is the master of the country. It behooves everybody to do his share in developing the country and, accordingly, the affairs of the country are the business of every citizen. At this juncture, I believe that there is a greater need than ever before for all citizens to have a strong sense of responsibility and self-confidence. We will not fail to find a brighter future if we have a greater confidence in ourselves, in the fruits of sweat and in our own endeavors.

In that spirit, I fervently wish that 1983 will be the year of self-confidence and redoubled efforts. Once more I pray for good luck and happiness for all of you and your families.

LEBANESE REQUEST FOR AID BEING STUDIED

SK310419 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 31 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] The government has been carefully studying the Lebanese request for Korea's assistance in the postwar rehabilitation of the war-torn Middle East country, it was said yesterday.

An informed diplomatic source said the government has received the official request from the Lebanese Government and that the study is being made by officials at relevant ministries.

He did not say when the request was made to the Korean Government. The source said he understands a survey team might be sent to Lebanon at an early date to get necessary data for the possible dispatch of construction engineers and technicians.

The source recalled that the government has expressed its desire to help Lebanon by some other means than dispatching Korean troops to augment the multinational peace-keeping force there.

It was also learned that the Lebanese Government wants Korean technicians and engineers to help reconstruct public establishments and industrial facilities destroyed by the war. In this case, materials and funds necessary for the rehabilitation projects are expected to be supplied by other countries.

Details of the study now under way by the ministries concerned have not been made known. However, if technicians and engineers are to be sent, they would number about 200, it was learned.

The government was originally requested by Lebanon to send soldiers in November. But it decided not to send troops in consideration of Korea's own national security. An announcement made in this regard Dec. 2 said the government, however, "will not spare cooperation and assistance to Lebanon's reconstruction and restoration of peace by all means other than sending troops."

ROK, JAPANESE OFFICIALS DISCUSS LOAN ISSUE

SK301426 Seoul YONHAP in English 1212 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP) -- South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Pom-Sok and Japanese Ambassador to Korea Toshikazu Maeda, in an apparent move to accelerate a negotiation of bilateral loan issue, agreed Thursday to actively cooperate for an early solution to Seoul's request for four billion U.S. dollars in Japanese loans.

The agreement was reached when the two met for 40 minutes at the Foreign Ministry to discuss the loan issue amid reports that the two countries have covertly resumed their negotiation since the recent election of Yasuhiro Nakasone as Japanese prime minister.

Yi told the Japanese envoy that the two countries should solve the pending issue at the earliest possible time to further develop cooperative relations, indicating that such a cooperative atmosphere was timely because of the launching of a new leadership in Japan, according to Director-General Kim Pyong-von of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, who was present at the Yi-Maeda talks.

Kim told reporters that the Japanese envoy shared the same hope for an early end to the loan issue which has been negotiated through diplomatic channels. Kim said Yi's summons of Maeda to the Foreign Ministry provided a mature atmosphere to conclude the economic cooperation issue and Seoul's call for accelerated negotiation. Sources at the Foreign Ministry said Yi and Maeda apparently discussed ways for both sides to withdraw a few steps from their current stands.

Korea had originally requested a six-billion-dollar loan but the two sides compromised early this year by scaling it down to four billion dollars. The two countries had negotiated on details of the loan requested by Seoul to 2.3 billion dollars in Tokyo's Overseas Development Aid fund and 1.7 billion dollars in commodity loans. Negotiation on the details of the loans was discontinued in summer when the so-called textbook controversy erupted and strained bilateral diplomatic relations.

GOVERNMENT TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

SK290153 Seoul YONHAP in English 0147 GMT 29 Dec 82

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 29 (YONHAP) -- The Korean Government will conduct more positive economic diplomacy next year to broaden Seoul's economic and technological cooperation with foreign countries and to back up the efforts of Korean companies to enhance their competitiveness in world markets, a diplomatic source in Seoul said Wednesday.

The government campaign includes the conclusion of agreements for economic and technological cooperation with Venezuela, Brazil and 16 other countries, investment guarantee agreements with Thailand, Panama and nine other nations, and double taxation avoidance agreements with Spain, Chile and nine other countries, the source noted. Frequent meetings between economic ministers and economic cooperation committee meetings with existing or potential major Korean economic partners will be encouraged, he added. Korean diplomatic missions abroad will also be asked to assist entrepreneurs in buoying their exports.

The government will step up efforts to introduce more foreign capital, investments and technology to secure funds for various projects envisaged in the country's fifth five-year economic development plan begun this year, the source said.

MATERIALS ON KUFNCD NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION

30 Dec Agenda

BK311120 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] The second annual meeting of the KUFNCD National Council continued its work on 30 December at the National Assembly in an atmosphere full of solidarity, unity and success.

Beginning at 1430, members of the audience attentively listened to the report of Comrade Hun Sen, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of foreign affairs, and member of the front's National Council.

In his detailed, meaningful and interesting report, Comrade Hun Sen outlined the expansionist policy of the Beijing Chinese in the PRK and the SRV, as well as in the LPDR. The comrade exposed the deceitful maneuver of creating the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea by big Chinese hegemonism in collusion with U.S. imperialism and their ASEAN lackeys, who are gasping for air and in great despair over their repeated failures.

The comrade stressed that despite the enemy's many cowardly maneuvers, aimed at opposing the quick rebirth of the Kampuchean people, the Kampuchean revolution has achieved great victories and is steadily consolidating; in other words, the situation in Kampuchea is irreversible. The comrade also commented on recent world events and the relations between China and the Soviet Union.

Closing Session 31 Dec

BK020814 [Editorial Report] Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 1300 GMT on 31 December carries a 30-minute report on a ceremony held at the office of the National Assembly on 31 December to close the second annual meeting of the KUFNCD National Council.

The announcer says that members of the KUFNCD National Council, representatives of various mass organizations, monks, various nationalities, intellectuals and representatives of various sectors attended the closing ceremony. Also present, he says, were ambassadors and charges d'affaires of various friendly countries and local and foreign journalists. He states that the presidium arrived at 1600 and, "among those in the presidium were Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State and of the KUFNCD honorary presidium; Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly and of the KUFNCD National Council; Comrade Lou Thang, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of national defense and vice chairman of the KUFNCD National Council; Comrade Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of foreign affairs and member of the KUFNCD National Council; Comrade Mat Ly, vice chairman of the National Assembly and member of the KUFNCD honorary presidium; Comrade Chan Ven, secretary general of the Council of State and vice chairman of the KUFNCD National Council; Superior Bonze Tep Vong, vice chairman of the National Assembly and of the KUFNCD National Council; Comrade Men Chhan, member of the Council of State and vice chairman of the KUFNCD National Council; Comrade Yos Por, secretary general of the KUFNCD National Council; and four other male and female members of the KUFNCD National Council."

Then the announcer presents a 10-minute recorded speech by Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the KUFNCD National Council, reading the draft resolution of the meeting to be considered and approved.

After the participants voiced approval of the draft resolution, the announcer presents a 10-minute recorded speech by Comrade Chairman Heng Samrin reading the draft declaration of the meeting.

After the participants voiced approval for the draft declaration, the announcer presents a 5-minute recorded closing speech by Comrade Chea Sim.

The announcer says the ceremony concluded at 1645 after the presidium and the local and foreign guests left the meeting hall.

Chea Sim on Resolution

BK021610 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0420 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Phnom Penh, 1 Jan (SPK) -- The second meeting of the KUFNCD National Council unanimously adopted on 31 December the resolution read by Chea Sim, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the front's National Council and the National Assembly. The resolution says:

Beginning on 28 December 1982, the second meeting of the KUFNCD National Council -- attended by representatives of the municipal and provincial fronts, mass organizations, ministries and departments -- was held to review the implementation of resolutions of the front's third national congress and to set the front's tasks of prime importance for 1983.

The meeting heard the speech of Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee, chairman of the Council of State of the PRK and chairman of the KUFNCD National Council honorary presidium, and the report of Chea Sim, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the National Assembly and the KUFNCD National Council, concerning the front's 1982 activities and the tasks to be accomplished in 1983.

The meeting warmly greeted the great successes in every field achieved by our people in 1982: military, political, economic, cultural, diplomatic and so on.

The meeting highly appreciated the situation in the country, which is proving to be more and more stable; the cause of the Kampuchean people's rebirth, which is getting better; the influence of the Kampuchean revolution, which is continuously increasing; the national unity, which is being strengthened daily; and the powerful force of international solidarity -- particularly the Kampuchea-Vietnam-Lao militant solidarity -- which is becoming stronger and more developed. At the same time, the enemy's poisonous maneuvers have successively weakened and failed.

The meeting wholeheartedly admired the entire armed forces and all the people who have put forward their physical and moral efforts to implement well the 10-point program of the front's third national congress and to overcome all difficulties by showing their firm will to fight to promote the cause of building and defending the fatherland until new and greater successes can be achieved.

The great victory of the rebirth of the nation and the country is linked to the new regime, the authentic regime of the PRK; to the Kampuchea-Vietnam-Lao militant solidarity, which is consolidating continuously; and to the force of the three revolutionary currents in the world.

The Beijing expansionists, in collusion with the U.S. imperialists and other international reactionary forces, have sought by all poisonous means to oppose the revolution of the three Indochinese countries. Their particular aim is to sabotage the Kampuchean revolution by using all forms of maneuvers such as the creation of the reactionary tripartite Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, which grouped Sihanouk, Son Sann and Khieu Samphan.

However, in truth, the tripartite coalition government is a grouping of the Pol Pot genocidal clique used to dupe national and international opinion and attract international assistance in order to continue opposition to the Kampuchean revolution. The enemy's ambitions are great and their illusions numerous, but they remain weak. Sihanouk -- a Pol Pot associate -- is far from being able to mask the Pol Pot genocidal regime's crimes, but the face of the traitor Sihanouk to the nation and people is clearly revealed. The so-called reactionary tripartite coalition government is nothing but a regrouping of rivals who are already weak and will become weaker.

In 1983, in order to stimulate the cause of our country's revolution to progress energetically and firmly, the entire people and army must strengthen solidarity and ease all difficulties created by the enemies and remnants of the Pol Pot regime. The entire people must put forward all their efforts in ardent emulation in order to fulfill the following main tasks:

--Thwart all the enemies' poisonous maneuvers, ensure and safeguard the nation's security and defend the people's peaceful life.

-- Implement, above the plan, the economic and cultural program of 1983.

-- Strive to build further the revolutionary force in all localities and the revolutionary movement of the masses. These are the key issues which determine the success of others.

-- Strengthen international solidarity -- particularly the Kampuchea-Vietnam-Laos militant solidarity. Strengthen the close solidarity, friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries.

In order to successfully accomplish the above-mentioned tasks, in 1983 the front must continue to implement the 10-point program set by the front's third national congress. Furthermore, the following six tasks must be carried out well:

1. The work of the front and that of mass organizations must extend to localities. Form, consolidate and develop the front's organs, members of the front and the front's combatants in the localities.
2. The front and all mass organizations must intensely develop educational work, exhort people to unite in ardent emulation in the implementation of the five good actions and abolition of the five bad ones; and stimulate the three revolutionary movements such as fight the enemies, produce and bring up the people's living standards, develop revolutionary force and create greater works to greet the successes of the PRK achieved up to its fifth founding anniversary.
3. The front and all mass organizations must observe the holding of meetings of cadres and mass organizations at all levels; draw from those meetings' experiences in order to improve work and perfect cadres; and strengthen organizations in order to rationally organize the front's combatants in their activities against the enemy's psychological warfare.
4. Continue to implement the resolutions of monks' meetings; organize political courses and discussion sessions for intellectuals; conduct research; and implement political principles by taking into account the material life and the culture of ethnic minorities.
5. Organize well "the four front's days" by annually strengthening the solidarity of the entire people, the solidarity between the army and people, the Kampuchea-Vietnam-Laos militant solidarity and the solidarity with the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries.

6. The front's cadres, all mass organizations, all sections and all levels must necessarily increase their efforts in the work with people; carry out propaganda and education for the peace and learn from them; seek to understand the people's aspirations and deploy the military entertainment force in the revolutionary movement of the people.

If we accomplish the above-mentioned tasks, the powerful force of the people, combined with that of the international solidarity which is developing daily, we will certainly overcome all the difficulties and thwart the enemy's maneuvers. The Kampuchean people's revolutionary cause will advance firmly step by step.

Heng Samrin on Declaration

BK021030 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0452 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] On 31 December the second annual meeting of the KUFNCD National Council unanimously adopted the declaration read by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KRRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State. The declaration says:

From 28 to 31 December, the second meeting of the KUFNCD National Council was held with great success in the capital of Phnom Penh.

Attending the meeting were 250 delegates. They were members of the front's National Council; representatives of various provinces and towns, mass organizations, trade unions, youth and women's associations; and representatives of intellectuals, monks, various ethnic groups, the army, central institutions, press and information agencies and radio.

The meeting warmly thanked and congratulated the authentic and ardent patriotism and the great international solidarity position of the armed forces, combatants, cadres, personnel, workers, peasants, youth, women, intellectuals, monks, ethnic groups and Kampuchean residents abroad who have sacrificed their physical and moral strength and devoted themselves to serve wholeheartedly the revolution in the cause of building and defending our beloved fatherland. Our brilliant successes in every field -- military, political, economic, cultural and diplomatic -- in 1982 clearly show that our people are closely tied with the new regime and that the PRK Government is the sole authentic and legitimate representative of the Kampuchean people.

Afraid of this situation, the Beijing expansionist-hegemonists, the U.S. imperialists and ASEAN reactionary forces hastily decided among themselves to establish the so-called "Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea" with Sihanouk as pawn to hide the hideous face of the Pol Pot genocidal clique.

The meeting vehemently condemned the presence of disguised exterminators hidden under the label of the so-called "Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea" at the 37th session of the UN General Assembly and considered that act illegal and peculiar, violating the Kampuchean people's right to self-determination, grossly interfering in the internal affairs of the PRK and running counter to the UN Charter.

The meeting denounced the present maneuvers of Beijing, Washington, and the ASEAN reactionary forces, which have the intention of sending the facetious Sihanouk to attend the seventh summit of nonaligned countries in order to make the prestige and position of the genocidal criminals reverberate.

People the world over clearly see that these are enemy maneuvers against peace aimed not only at torpedoing the rebirth of the Kampuchean people and going against the tendency toward dialogue and peace which is developing in Southeast Asia, but also at destroying the fundamental principles of the Nonaligned Movement and sowing discord on a large scale in this movement.

The meeting noted that from the moment Sihanouk -- traitor to the nation -- fled the country, he has had no justification for going to New Delhi. Immediately after the Kampuchean people toppled the Pol Pot genocidal regime, Sihanouk followed the genocidal criminals. Recently, he has sided with the criminals of genocide and made himself a lackey of imperialist forces and international reactionaries. He has betrayed the national interest and led himself to political suicide. The so-called "Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea" is nothing but a group of exiles with neither territory nor people, scattered about and sustained by the Beijing aggressors in collusion with the U.S. imperialists and a number of ASEAN reactionary forces.

On behalf of 6 million Kampuchean people who aspire to live in peace, independence and freedom, the meeting expressed its profound gratitude to the Indian people and peace-loving peoples the world over who are vehemently condemning the disguised genocidal criminals under the label of "tripartite Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea." They are demanding that Sihanouk -- Pol Pot's associate -- be prevented from going to New Delhi, capital of a peaceful country, at the seventh summit of the nonaligned countries.

The meeting has faith and confidence in the great national union, which is linked with extended international solidarity -- in particular the Kampuchean-Vietnam-Laos strategic alliance -- and in the relations of solidarity, friendship, and cooperation in every field with the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries. Under the just and clear-sighted leadership of the party, government and the front, no reactionary power will be able -- now or in the future -- to reverse the Kampuchean revolution.

In order to achieve further great successes in 1983, the meeting appealed to the Kampuchean people of all strata and to Kampuchean residents and nationals without distinction of political tendency, nationality, belief and religion to further hold aloft the banners of genuine patriotism and internationalism, to sharpen their wills to defend and build the fatherland, to strive to promote dynamically the three movements -- fight the enemy, build revolutionary forces and implement well the 1983 economic and cultural program -- and to outdo all forms of poisonous maneuvers and activities by the Beijing expansionists in collusion with the imperialists and other reactionary forces.

The Kampuchean people ardently wish to live in peace and struggle for peace, friendship and cooperation in Southeast Asia. That is why we greet and entirely support the 22 December 1982 message of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Central Committee of the CPSU, which responds to the aspirations of all humanity. The good will, full of the spirit to reduce all nuclear weapons, is the source of the solution to the present tension in the world, in which all of humanity lives under the same roof. The Kampuchean people, with other progressive forces the world over and with the USSR as the vanguard, are determined to vigorously and tirelessly fight for the peace and international security to which all of humanity aspires. The just cause of the Kampuchean revolution will prevail.

Chea Sim Closing Speech

BK020900 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Speech by Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly and of the KUFNCD National Council, at the closing ceremony 31 December of the second annual meeting of the KUFNCD National Council held at the office of the National Assembly in Phnom Penh -- recorded]

[Text] The members of the meeting voiced full agreement with what Comrade Chairman Heng Samrin said in his opening speech and with the report made by the KUFNCD National Council and wholeheartedly approved the resolution and declaration of the meeting. The unanimous approval voiced at this meeting for all these documents which define the future policy and work targets of the front National Council reflects the unanimous policy and viewpoint of all the male and female members of the meeting who are the firm base of national unity and whose opinion is linked to the will and aspirations of the people and the representatives of the state power and of the mass organizations at all levels. Our only common goal is to firmly defend the rebirth of our nation and to make our nation stable and everlasting [words indistinct]. [applause]

This is a new achievement accomplished at the end of 1982 in addition to the victories scored successively by our front National Council in the cause of building and defending our beloved fatherland. These victories constitute a strong and due retaliation to the perfidious maneuvers of the Beijing hegemonist-expansionists in collusion with the U.S. imperialists and other international reactionaries, who are using Sihanouk, Son Sann and Khieu Samphan to cover up the traitorous face of Pol Pot, ringleader of the murderers, in an attempt to deceive national and international opinion, sabotage our people's peaceful life and obstruct the progress of our new Kampuchean society. We are confident that all the perfidious maneuvers of the enemies will certainly be defeated by the forces of our great national unity led by the party, front and government of the PRK and supported by the firm and broad internationalist solidarity. [applause]

Dear comrades and friends, the policies of the party, state and front; the resolutions of the fourth party congress and the third front congress; and various other directives concerning the revolution have already been drawn and adopted by our party, state and front. The main task of each one of us is to implement them. Therefore, the immediate and future needs of the revolutionary tasks demand all of you to turn your theoretical knowledge into practical deeds so our nation and people can exist with peace and prosperity in the community of various countries in the world. [applause] Therefore, like the requests of this meeting, the party, state and front, my insistent request is that upon returning to your respective localities you strive to fulfill all the points adopted at this meeting. In other words, you must try to do your best in order to make all our resolutions become immortal in all localities. [applause] I am confident in your patriotism, your love for the revolution and people, your fervent will to struggle and your spirit of firm national unity and broad international solidarity.

Under the brilliant leadership of the KPRP, the state and the front, no enemy can reverse the Kampuchean revolution. Our new Kampuchean society will certainly achieve more victories in the cause of our national defense and construction toward genuine and prosperous socialism.

On behalf of the presidium, I now declare the meeting closed. Thank you.

KAMPUCHEA EDITORIAL MARKS USSR FOUNDING

BK010955 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0407 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] Phnom Penh, 31 Dec (SPK) -- The paper KAMPUCHEA stressed that "the USSR is actively contributing to the movement struggling for national liberation and has put in enormous efforts in the defense of international peace and detente.

The paper published an editorial to mark the 60th founding anniversary of the Soviet Union, "A Very Important and Significant Event for the Soviet People."

The front's central organ continued: The high-ranking Kampuchean delegation led by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, brought warm feeling of friendship and firm solidarity of the Kampuchea people to the country of the great Lenin.

The Soviet party and state -- through their tireless efforts put into defending the interests of the working class, and their faithfulness to communist ideology -- have succeeded in uniting all the nationalities of the USSR into one revolutionary family. The evolution of society, culture and living conditions in the USSR have confirmed the rightness and the vivaciousness of the Leninist policy.

The Soviet Union has seen over the past 60 years the country's economy and defense potentials developed. Industrial and agricultural bases have extended; science and technology have made great progress. The gross national product has multiplied 155 times. The living conditions of the Soviets are getting better every day.

In only 6 decades, the Soviet Union has become a great world power and has successfully built socialism and is building the material and technical bases of communism. These successes mark a struggle of hundreds of years of the Soviet people for freedom and equality. The gains of the USSR symbolize social progress, peace, freedom and happiness which are the aspirations of humanity.

Regarding the external policy of the USSR, the paper stressed: the party and state of the Soviet people --faithful to the Great October Socialist Revolution -- link their destiny with that of peoples the world over, bringing an important contribution to the struggle for independence, peace, freedom, democracy and social progress.

It is for this reason that the Soviet Union, during 60 years of its existence, has tirelessly fought against colonialism, neocolonialism, racism and the exploitation of man by man. The party and state of the Soviet Union has always pursued a foreign policy of solidarity with young states which struggle for their political and economic independence.

The Soviet Union works to promote peaceful coexistence, cooperation with mutual interest, greatly contributing to world stability. All this has made the USSR a vanguard which encourages workers the world over in their struggle for a radiant future.

Twenty million Soviets sacrificed themselves during World War II to save humanity from the danger of Hitlerian extermination. The Soviet Union tirelessly struggles to defend its thesis of building a peaceful world without arms. In the past, as in the present, the Soviet Union has always pursued an external policy of peace, and has struggled for international detente and world peace, and thus has spared the world from a nuclear war. The peace initiatives raised at the 26th Congress of the CPSU are firmly supported by peace- and justice-loving peoples the world over.

The Soviet Union's promise not to use nuclear weapons first clearly confirms the aim of the struggle waged by the Soviet party, state and people. This reduces the risks of war and consolidates peace on our planet. At the ceremony marking the 60th founding anniversary of the USSR, Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, made known the USSR will to stop nuclear arms race which found support among peoples the world over. It is the Soviet Union which has provided the backbone to the cause of peace and to world's revolutionary movement. The Soviet Union is the hope of all peoples the world over.

The Kampuchean people are proud to have a faithful and powerful friend: the great Soviet people. The Kampuchean people express their gratitude to the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries which -- through the spirit of proletarian internationalism -- have materially and morally supported their just cause. The Kampuchean people pledge to follow the example of the country of the Great October Revolution and to learn from its experiences to build an independent, peaceful, free and non-aligned Kampuchea advancing toward socialism; We undertake to look after the relations of friendship, solidarity and Kampuchea-USSR cooperation, based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, in the interest of peace, democracy and socialism.

KUFNCD MEETING COMMEMORATES CUBAN REVOLUTION

BK281440 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1424 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, 27 Dec (SPK) -- The KUFNCD National Council held a meeting in Phnom Penh this morning to mark the 24th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

Present on the podium of honor were Mat Ly, member of the KPRP Central Committee and vice chairman of the National Assembly; Men Chhan, vice chairman of the KUFNCD National Council; Superior Bonze Tep Vong, vice chairman of the National Assembly and of the KUFNCD National Council; and Chheng Phon, chairman of the Kampuchea-Cuba Friendship Association and minister of information and culture. Orestes Quintana Marquez, Cuban ambassador to Kampuchea, was also present at the meeting, as were the ambassadors of various countries accredited to Kampuchea.

In his speech, Mat Ly noted that the 1 January 1959 triumph allowed the Cuban people to write another page of their history and to enter a new era; the era of independence, freedom and socialism. Once a poor, backward and dependent country, the Republic of Cuba now is endowed with a constantly developing industry and agriculture, a vanguard culture and a powerful system of national defense. It has acquired growing international prestige and has become a strong bastion and a worthy spokesman of socialism in the Western Hemisphere.

Mat Ly went on to say: Thanks to its correct and dynamic policy, Cuba has become a brilliant and noble example of proletarian internationalism and greatly contributed to the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress throughout the whole world.

We energetically condemn the recent U.S. Senate approval of the (?Symms) Amendment and the decision of the U.S. Government to install a radio station for subversive propaganda against the Republic of Cuba. The U.S. Senate's open support for the policy of intervention and military participation of the warmongering Reagan administration is aimed at slowing down the revolutionary advance in Central America and the Caribbean region, intensifying the economic blockade against Cuba and diverting the Cuban revolution from its principled policy.

On the Kampuchean situation, he said: Within 4 years, the Kampuchean people have achieved important successes. The PRK enjoys stability and progresses steadily on the road of independence, peace, democracy and nonalignment toward socialism.

Mat Ly denounced Beijing hegemonism in connivance with U.S. imperialism and other international reactionaries such as the ASEAN countries for creating the so-called "tripartite government." He stressed that puppet Sihanouk is used to cover up the crimes of the Pol Pot hangmen and fool international public opinion and the Kampuchean people. He noted that the reactionaries use him to continue to illegally maintain the wobbly seat of Democratic Kampuchea at the United Nations and to return it to the Nonaligned Movement from which it had been kicked out. We are determined to defend our great gains, to take hold of the destiny of our nation and to maintain our new and irreversible society. We are convinced that the progressive forces in the movement will foil all attempts to provoke confusion and splits in the movement and that they will prevent Sihanouk from speaking there, will not discuss the so-called Kampuchea question, and will uphold the resolution of the sixth summit in Havana.

Speaking on this occasion, Cuban Ambassador Orestes Quintana Marquez recalled the intervention of the imperialists in Cuba since its liberation from the yoke of the Spanish colonialists.

He went on to say: The sacrifice and heroism of the best sons of Kampuchea permitted them to win the 7 January 1979 victory over the barbarous and genocidal regime and over the traitorous Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan clique. The PRK has achieved great successes in various fields during the past 4 years and has progressed from a torn country where all of its industries were paralyzed, where education and health service were nonexistent and where almost all of its cities were almost completely destroyed.

Orestes Quintana Marquez stressed the designs of imperialism in collusion with Chinese expansionism regarding the Kampuchean revolution and declared: Cuba will be at the side of the Kampuchean people in difficult times. The Cubans will carry out all their pledges so as to help the Kampuchean people make the Kampuchean fatherland progress.

STRAITS TIMES ON SIHANOUK'S WISH TO STOP ACTIVITY

BK310805 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Dec 82 pp 1, 38

[By STRAITS TIMES diplomatic correspondent Tan Lian Choo]

[Excerpt] Prince Norodom Sihanouk has reportedly told his followers that he will put a "temporary" stop to his diplomatic and political activities and withdraw from his involvement as president of Democratic Kampuchea [DK].

The 60-year-old prince, who became president after a tripartite coalition pact signed in June this year, gave his reasons in a note marked "confidential" from Pyongyang, the North Korean capital where he now lives, on Nov 19. In it, he informed his followers that he needed a "a long period of reflection".

Questioning his "cooperation" with the Khmer Rouge and with foreign "sponsors", he wrote in French: "I have to find out if it is useful for my people and for the future of Cambodia."

THE STRAITS TIMES has obtained an unsigned copy of the eight-page typewritten note from a reliable Sihanoukist source who requested anonymity. In it, Prince Sihanouk said it was necessary to keep watch over a period of time and carefully observe "sponsor" countries as well as his coalition partners. This would allow him to decide eventually on the best line to adopt in the interest of his country and people.

The DK president gave three main reasons for his decision. First, he was disturbed by Western reaction to the Chinese treatment for Khmer Rouge Vice-President Khieu Samphan in his recent visit to Beijing. Several Western diplomats expressed their surprise because China appeared even more determined to boost the Khmer Rouge before any other faction. Friends or supporters of the DK coalition would be right to ask if his presence was not only a "cosmetic" dressing for the Khmer Rouge, Prince Sihanouk said.

The second reason for his decision to withdraw was over the lack of military support for his factions. There was no sense in the tripartite coalition because any prospect of similar military support for the other non-communist faction, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), was also limited. Prince Sihanouk said the Khmer Rouge would continue to dominate the tripartite coalition.

Finally, the prince described what he called a "strong current of Thai public opinion" opposed to him, and which preferred a settlement of the Cambodian problem via negotiations with the Vietnamese. He said there should be clarification over official Thai attitudes on this, both in military and civilian circles.

Although the note was not explicit on the nature of negotiations with Vietnam, it appeared that the prince was referring to the call for unconditionally starting direct or indirect negotiations with Hanoi.

ASEAN leaders have all along maintained that negotiations with Vietnam can take place only after the latter agrees to unconditionally withdraw its 180,000 troops now stationed in Cambodia.

VODK CARRIES SIHANOUK MESSAGE TO KHIEU SAMPHAN

BK020212 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT
1 Jan 83

["Message of greetings and thanks" dated 27 December from Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Democratic Kampuchea, to Khieu Samphan, vice president of Democratic Kampuchea, and the Democratic Kampuchean leaders, cadres, people and combatants -- read by announcer]

[Text] To His Excellency Khieu Samphan, vice president of Democratic Kampuchea, through the Democratic Kampuchean Embassy in Pyongyang, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

I would like to express profound thanks to Your Excellency for your message dated 24 December 1982. I would like to extend warmest congratulations to your excellency and the leaders, cadres, people and combatants of Democratic Kampuchea for the great victories scored in 1982 in your valiant struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors and colonialists in our beloved fatherland. I would like also to express my gratitude to Your Excellency for your best wishes sent to me on the occasion of this new year.

I wholeheartedly extend best wishes to you and all the ladies and gentlemen. May you enjoy greater victories in 1983 in your struggle against the enemy. With highest regards,

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk, president of Democratic Kampuchea
Pyongyang, 27 December 1982

VIENTIANE MEETING 28 DEC MARKS USSR ANNIVERSARY

BK280519 [Editorial Report] Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao at 0000 GMT on 28 December began live coverage of a "grand meeting" in Vientiane of the "Organizing Committee for Celebration of the 60th Founding Anniversary of the USSR" and chaired by President Souphanouvong, to mark the 60th founding anniversary of the USSR.

The announcer said that on the presidium of the meeting were "Souphanouvong, Nouhak Phoumsavan, Phoumi Vongvichit, Phoum Sipaseut, Sisomphon Lovansai, Souvanna Phouma, Khamsouk Keola, Saman Vignaket, Maichantan Sengmani and other Lao leaders, along with Soviet Ambassador Sobchenko and President of the USSR-Laos Friendship Association Maslin." Some 40,000 residents of Vientiane capital also attended the meeting, the announcer reported.

The official ceremony began after the playing of the Lao and Soviet national anthems. At 0048 GMT, President Souphanouvong delivered an opening speech pointing out the objective of the meeting.

Souphanouvong then invited Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, to deliver a speech.

At 0126 GMT, the Soviet ambassador to Laos, Vladimir Sobchenko, took the rostrum to address the meeting in Russian, with paragraph by paragraph translation into Lao. The ambassador recalled the birth of his country under the socialist system effected by Lenin, the socialist construction undertaken by the Soviet people of all nationalities in the 15 Soviet socialist republics, and the Soviet people's struggle against the imperialists and international reactionaries. He noted worldwide support for the peace policy of the Soviet Union and the recent appeal of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the CPSU Central Committee on the arms race and reduction of tension in the world. Ambassador Sobchenko pointed to the significance of the 24 December Moscow meeting between LPRP Central Committee Secretary General Kaysone Phomvihvan and CPSU Central Committee Secretary General Yuriy Andropov to discuss issues of mutual interest between Laos and the USSR. He noted some socialist construction projects in Laos undertaken with Soviet assistance, saying "at present, Soviet technicians are working side by side with Lao workers in several parts of Laos, carrying out their internationalist obligations. Glorious examples of our cooperation are the construction of a bridge across the Nam Neun River, an auto and farm tools repair shop, and other projects." He stressed: "True to its internationalist obligations, the USSR will continue to render friendly support and assistance to the Lao people."

After the Soviet ambassador concluded his speech, slogans hailing the USSR and Soviet-Lao friendship were shouted by attendants at the meeting.

Following this, President Souphanouvong once again took the rostrum to deliver a 9-minute speech closing the meeting.

Souphanouvong declared the meeting closed at 0135 GMT.

Souphanouvong's Opening Speech

BK281040 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0048 GMT 28 Dec 82

[Speech by Souphanouvong, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, president of the LPDR and chairman of the SPC and the LFNC Central Committee, delivered at opening ceremony of Vientiane meeting to mark the founding anniversary of the USSR -- live]

[Text] Respected Buddhist clergymen, beloved comrades in the party and state leadership, beloved members of the diplomatic corps and distinguished guests, beloved comrades and friends, beloved Vietiane compatriots:

Implementing a resolution of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and the National Organizing Committee for celebration of this auspicious occasion, the Lao people of all tribes throughout the country have joyously competed with one another in scoring achievements to welcome this important day. Amid a joyous atmosphere, we, the Lao people, feel it is a great honor to grandly celebrate together with the fraternal Soviet people and progressive mankind throughout the world the 60th founding of the USSR. [applause]

From the stage of the presidium of today's mass rally of Vientiane residents, on behalf of the National Organizing Committee for celebration of the 60th founding anniversary of the USSR, I have the honor of presiding over this meeting.

The 60th founding anniversary of the USSR is not only a great occasion for the Soviet people, but also a historic day for all workers, laboring people and progressive mankind throughout the world. The founding of the USSR marked the opening of a new era for all mankind and the beginning of deterioration and bankruptcy of the capitalist imperialists who controlled the world for several centuries. It was the day which indicated that oppressed, exploited and backward countries were able to build themselves into prosperous and progressive socialist nations. [applause]

We can say that important day opened a new era -- the era of genuine independence, freedom, equality, fraternity and great unity -- for all nationalities and tribes in accordance with the guidance outlined by the great Lenin. The growth and expansion of the USSR have not only enabled the formerly backward and poverty-stricken Soviet Socialist Republics to grow stronger and more prosperous in all fields, thereby becoming the land which is economically rich, politically stable, militarily strong, and culturally and socially prosperous, but have also turned the USSR into a steel prop for world peace and revolution as well as a decisive factor in directing the development of mankind. [applause]

Thanks to the prosperity and strength of the USSR, the revolution for national liberation in the past and the present socialist transformation and construction in our country have been blessed with firm support and favorable conditions, enabling us to score numerous great and glorious achievements.

At the meeting today, in addition to sharing an enthusiastic and joyous atmosphere with all progressive mankind throughout the world, we are also displaying our profound friendship and gratitude toward the heroic Soviet party, state and people. [applause]

During this auspicious moment, I would like to officially open our grand meeting. I would like to invite Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, to deliver a speech.

Phoumi Vongvichit's Address

BK301200 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0058 GMT 28 Dec 82

[Speech by Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, at the Vientiane meeting marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the USSR - live]

[Text] My respect to Buddhist monks, members of the presidium of the meeting, distinguished guests and beloved compatriots in the capital of Vientiane:

Today, in an atmosphere of joy and happiness, we join the fraternal Soviet people in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the founding of the USSR.

On this occasion, on behalf of the LPRP and the LPDR Government, I express solidarity and love to all of you attending this meeting and, from this rostrum, I extend hearty salutations and militant solidarity to the fraternal Soviet people currently enjoying the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of their country. [applause]

Comrades and friends, the history of the Soviet people of various nationalities has become the history of the people who pioneered the path of socialism and communism -- a system without the exploitation of man by man, a system that provides full freedom, equal rights and well-being to all people.

When the whole world was under the darkness of capitalism, the people in various countries struggled for their well-being and their children's happiness. It was the gallant and honorable Soviet people who first achieved the aim of the struggle. The Soviet people, under the leadership of the Communist Party headed by the great Lenin, waged a long and hard revolutionary struggle against the czarist regime and fulfilled the Socialist Revolution in October 1917. The Great October Revolution liberated not only Russia but various states which were then subordinate to the Russian emperors.

Following their liberation, Russia and its allied states gradually established themselves as the Soviet socialist republics, each enjoying independence and freedom. This event made the imperialists and internal reactionaries very angry since they lost considerable interests gained from their exploitations. One-sixth of the world's area was freed from the capitalist system, thus resulting in the emergence of a new system in the world -- the socialist system, which is daily developing and becoming stronger alongside the capitalist system.

Refusing to give up their aggressive nature, the international and internal reactionaries committed armed intervention in the newly established Soviet socialist republics. Encountering the same enemy, the Russian people and their fraternal nationalities and tribes joined in resistance against the enemy and defeated him, thereby successfully defending their territories. After the enemy's armed intervention ended, the people in the various Soviet socialist republics undertook peacetime construction work. In carrying out this work, they found it was necessary to maintain a close alliance. For this reason, the various Soviet socialist republics gradually established a federation of republics -- of a few republics in the first stage. On 30 December 1922 the USSR was established by the First Congress of the Soviet Councils of the USSR, which was attended by 2,215 delegates representing all Soviet socialist republics. The USSR is now composed of 15 republics and has a total population of 270 million people.

According to the Soviet Constitution passed in 1977, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is a state of various nations with a unified federation. It was established on the principle of a union of socialist states with various nations maintaining self-determination and with the free participation of the various Soviet socialist republics, which maintain equality in rights. Each federal republic is a Soviet socialist state which maintains its own sovereignty and which is unified with other Soviet republics within the boundary of the Soviet Union. However, each republic reserves the right to freely separate itself.

The establishment of the USSR serves as an establishment of a new type of state which implements Lenin's policy on the problem of nationalities. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is a state composed of many states with many nationalities and tribes unified in a worker-peasant alliance. Those states maintain freedom and equality in rights and maintain a system of self-rule. They join in the union on a voluntary basis. The establishment of the USSR serves as a significant factor in the elimination of class hostility, the factor which leads to the stamping out of national hostility.

The resolution of the CPSU Central Committee on the occasion of the 60th founding anniversary of the USSR says that the 60th founding anniversary of the Soviet Union is an event recorded in the history of the Soviet people and that it marks a milestone and evidence of the victory of Lenin's policy on nationalities, which is implemented by the CPSU, and of the historic success of socialism. On this commemoration day full of honor and prestige, the Soviet Union shows itself to the world as a unified family of various republics which maintain an equality in rights and which join in building communism. The various republics maintain social, political and ideological unification.

Over the past 60 years, the establishment of the state in the form of a union of republics serves many useful purposes. It gives the development in the economic and cultural fields to each and all 15 republics and to the Soviet Union as a whole. Each republic has developed in accordance with the national specific points and with its own climatic and historic conditions. The differences between towns and countryside in each republic have been gradually eliminated. The differences in the level of development among the various republics have also been eliminated step by step. Worthy of note is that over the past 60 years -- a considerably short historical period -- complying with the instruction of great Lenin, under the clear-sighted leadership of the CPSU and with the massive strength of the Soviet people of various nationalities, the USSR, from being a backward country, has become the strongest superpower with the most modern industry in the world. It has an advanced agriculture, culture, science and technology, and a strong defense potential which cannot be defeated by any enemy.

In 1957 the USSR was the first country to launch an earth satellite into space. Later, it sent the first astronaut to orbit the earth to study space. It has launched spacecraft to fly around the globe up to the present time. In addition, the USSR was the first country in the world to send two vehicles, namely, Lunakhod 1 and 2, to run on the surface of the moon and take soil and stones from the moon for study and analysis. The USSR was the first country to send two female cosmonauts to make a flight around the earth for more than a week. It sent many cosmonauts to make space-flights orbiting the earth for more than half a year. Another significant point is that the USSR has created broad solidarity by helping cosmonauts of nearly all socialist countries and the French cosmonauts to make space flights to join in studying various problems in the interest of human life. These have demonstrated the USSR's quick progress in the scientific field and the superiority of socialism, which is correctly built in conformity with Marxism-Leninism and which shortly could be far ahead of capitalism.

Comparing the progress achieved by the USSR in 1982 with that of 1922, we have the following figures: the population has doubled; social production has increased 164 times; national revenue has increased 173 times; production capital has increased 55 times; the volume of industrial production has increased 537 times; the movement in switching farmers to the path of collective production has been 100 percent completed; the amount of agricultural products has increased 5.9 times; the amount of products transported for distribution has increased 299 times; the construction of foundations has increased 603 times; the construction of dwellings in towns has increased 12.3 times; and the volume of educational and public health services has increased 50 times. According to a comparison between the 11th 5-Year Plan -- 1980-1985 -- and the 10th 5-Year Plan, the Soviet Union will increase national revenue by 18 percent; the volume of industrial production will increase by 26 percent; the volume of agricultural production will increase by 13 percent; transportation service will increase by 19 percent; and the amount of investment will increase by 10.4 percent.

Following the successful implementation of the said 5-year plan, it is certain that the Soviet people's living conditions will improve many times and the Soviet Union will advance another step on the road to building the material and technical foundations for communism. The Soviet Union is replete with all tools to fulfill all tasks effectively. For example, it has production forces which have been highly developed in all respects. Furthermore, it is socially and politically unified, while the people maintain their moral virtues. It also maintains a clear strategy in achieving development and progress as stipulated in the resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress. All the above-mentioned facts have proved the correctness and efficiency of great Lenin's nationalities policy.

Comrades and friends, always pursuing Marxism-Leninism and adhering to proletarian internationalism in building and improving the living conditions of various nations, the Soviet Union has been, is and will continue to be the most resolute fighter for peace, security and cooperation among the various nations. At the same time, the Soviet Union has upheld the revolutionary banner. The Soviet Union has become a solid rampart for world revolution and peace. With Soviet assistance, the world socialist system, the national liberation movements and the movements of workers' struggle have been increasingly developed and strengthened with each passing day. [applause] This has become an important factor in checking the imperialists' schemes to wage a new world war.

We hail the resolute activities of the Soviet Union, which, loyal to Leninist foreign policy, has, together with progressive mankind, done everything for the security of the world and to lead the world to advance continuously. [applause] We hail the Soviet act of rendering military assistance to the Government of Afghanistan in response to a request by the government and people of that country to oppose the interference of the U.S. imperialists and international reactionaries. [applause] This act is a just act because it is helping Afghanistan achieve genuine peace, independence and freedom. We hail the Soviet Union for providing effective assistance in many fields to various nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America. [applause]

We highly appreciate and fully support the Soviet peace program and the significant and concrete peace initiatives as proposed by Comrade Leonid Brezhnev at the 26th CPSU Congress and on other occasions. We hail and support the message sent recently to the national assemblies, governments and political parties of various countries by the CPSU Central Committee and the Supreme Soviet of the USSR -- a message which calls for a united struggle to safeguard world peace, reduce the arms race and ease tension in the world, and which reiterates the Soviet intention of not being the first to use nuclear weapons. [applause]

All the above-mentioned actions taken by the Soviet Union constitute a trustworthy contribution to and a great encouragement for the various nations in the world in the struggle for world peace and security, thus further heightening the various nations' respect and love for the Soviet Union. The Soviet actions are of great merit, and they will be forever recorded in the history of world revolution. [applause] Honor is conferred upon the Soviet Union for pioneering the path of socialism and communism. [applause] Honor belongs to the Soviet Union for making important contributions in leading world progress. [applause]

Comrades and friends; the relations between the LPRP and the CPSU, between our country and the Soviet Union and between the Lao and Soviet peoples have existed a long time. They are the relations of those following the same ideal and sharing the same aspirations. These relations have been strengthened daily. Our people have more and more deeply appreciated these relations. They are profoundly aware that among the factors of the growth and development of the Lao revolution as seen today are the Great October Revolution, the Soviet Union and Marxism-Leninism. Each step of the Lao revolution, be it the national-democratic revolution or the current socialist revolution has received the all-round and effective support and assistance of the Soviet Union. We are proud of having the great Soviet people as our friends. [applause] The things the Soviet Union has done for the Lao people are countless. We will remember this in our hearts forever. [applause]

On the occasion of the great festival of the fraternal Soviet people, on behalf of the party, government and our people, I would like to ask your permission to express deep gratitude to the CPSU, the Soviet Government and the Soviet people for giving assistance to the Lao people in defending the country and building socialism. [applause]

I wish to express sincere thanks to the comrade ambassador and all cadres working at the Soviet Embassy in Laos and to the Soviet experts who, upholding the spirit of proletarian internationalism, have sincerely assisted the Lao people. [applause] I wish the fraternal Soviet people, under the leadership of the CPSU led by beloved Comrade Yuriy Andropov, many more successes in implementing the resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress for building communism -- the supreme aspiration of all progressive mankind. [applause]

Comrades and friends, our people are currently in the period of implementing the resolutions of the Third LPRP Congress in defending the country and transforming and building socialism. In 1982 we achieved some successes in carrying out this task. Our country has advanced a step further in the period of transition toward socialism. However, we have encountered some difficulties in our national development. The imperialists and the international reactionaries continue to conduct unfriendly policies toward our country. They have pursued schemes of sabotaging our country in all respects. They have attempted to sow discord between our people and the party, among the various tribes in our country and among Laos, Kampuchea, Vietnam, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. They have sabotaged and obstructed our national construction efforts, caused difficulties to the Lao people in their daily life and attempted to bribe our cadres and people to serve them as lackeys and so forth. We cannot afford to relax our vigilance toward the enemy's cruel schemes.

We have the duty of strengthening our all-round solidarity with the Soviet Union, Vietnam, Kampuchea and other socialist countries. I would like to hereby particularly stress that our solidarity and cooperation with the Soviet Union are of paramount importance.

Comrade Kaysone Phomvihvan, general secretary of the party and chairman of our Council of Ministers, said during the recent Kremlin meeting marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the USSR that the full development of solidarity and cooperation with the Soviet Union is a factor in deciding our victory in defending the country and building socialism in Laos. This is absolutely correct. Our solidarity and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union are a matter of principle. We will never allow anyone to wreck this solidarity and cooperation. [applause]

On the occasion of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the USSR, I call on the Vientiane residents and compatriots throughout the country to strengthen their friendship with the Soviet people and the Soviet Union; learn from the Soviet people's valuable lessons in their struggle and production; learn from the comrade Soviet experts working in our country; closely unite and resolutely defend the frontier of the fatherland; persistently increase production work in the spheres of industry, handicraft, agriculture, irrigation, road construction, transportation, trade, education, culture and public health development and others; strive to improve our material and spiritual life; and effectively fulfill our first 5-year economic and social construction plan. In the immediate future, it is necessary to carry out the agricultural taxation work, sell rice to the state and prepare for the forthcoming cultivation season.

With firm confidence in the invincible Marxist-Leninist theory; in the outstanding examples set by the Soviet party, state and people; in the close solidarity and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries; in the special solidarity among Laos, Vietnam and Kampuchea; in the talented and clear-sighted leadership of the LPRP with Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihvan as its leader; and in the tradition of solidarity and victorious struggle of the various tribes, which is beset with revolutionary enthusiasm, let the people throughout the country advance! Victory will surely belong to us! [applause]

Hail the successes of the Soviet people in their communist construction! [applause]

Long live the great friendship between the Lao and Soviet peoples! [applause]

Long live the 60th anniversary of the founding of the USSR! [applause]

Long live the CPSU! [applause]

Long live the LPRP, organizer and leader of all victories! [applause]

Long live invincible Marxism-Leninism! [applause]

Souphanouvong's Closing Words

BK291436 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0126 GMT 28 Dec 82

[Speech by Souphanouvong, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, president of the LPDR and chairman of the SPC and the LFNC Central Committee, closing the mass meeting in Vientiane to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the USSR -- live]

[Text] Dear comrades, personages and friends:

The speeches just read to us by the two comrades [Phoumi Vongvichit and USSR Ambassador Vladimir Sobchenko] clearly indicate that the founding of the USSR after the victory of the Great October Revolution was of great significance and of paramount importance.

It shows us that the people of various nationalities in the Soviet Union, united around the CPSU led by the great Lenin, jointly merged all 15 backward republics which had been heavily damaged by enemy aggression into a single USSR and have undertaken socialist transformation and construction in their country covering one-sixth of the world's area, thus enabling the USSR to become a powerful country with a highly advanced agriculture, developed and modernized industry, invincible, strong national defense forces and a highly civilized culture, technique and science, and bringing a life of plenty to every Soviet citizen. [applause]

All this shows that the heroic Soviet people have opened up a new era for the whole world, thereby vigorously encouraging the struggle movements for peace, independence, freedom and socialism to daily develop extensively and strongly, and giving a strong boost to the three revolutionary currents in the world to progress and develop with earnest confidence daily and to achieve ever greater, glorious successes in the five continents. [applause]

Speaking particularly of Laos, in both the period of national-democratic revolution and of the socialist revolution, the Lao people received the wholehearted support and ever greater and effective assistance of the Soviet party, state and people, thus creating favorable conditions for us to continuously win great and splendid successes.

I would like to take this opportunity to express deep gratitude on behalf of the party, state and entire people of Laos to the CPSU, government and people of the Soviet Union for always holding aloft proletarian internationalism to fulfill their international obligations. [applause]

Dear comrades and friends, the Third LPRP Congress outlined two strategic tasks for positive implementation by us -- that is, to defend the country and the people's happiness and tranquillity, and to build socialism in order to lead our beloved country to rapidly, firmly and strongly advance toward socialism. This revolutionary cause is a heavy but highly honorable task for the Lao people of all tribes. Our objective and subjective difficulties are heavy as well. However, they are the difficulties for advancing along a correct socialist path.

The Soviet people, united around the CPSU led by the great Lenin, surmounted all their objective and subjective difficulties and obstacles and led the USSR to do away with backwardness and become a rich and powerful socialist country, within only 60 years. This is a precious lesson for us. It has further strengthened our firm confidence in our inevitable success.

Our duty is to unite closely all tribes across the country under the LPRP with Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane as its general secretary, join in correctly, effectively and positively implementing the resolutions of the third party congress and all party resolutions and instructions, maintain special solidarity with the Vietnamese and Kampuchean people, and closely unite and cooperate in all respects with the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries. This is to implement triumphantly the task of building and defending the country and contribute to safeguarding peace in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

On behalf of the National Committee for the Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the USSR, the Lao party and state and the presidium of the meeting, I would like to thank the comrades, personages, diplomats and the residents of Vientiane for attending this grand meeting and making it a joyous occasion.

I officially declare our meeting closed. [applause]

KAYSONE PHOMVIVHAN SPEAKS ON USSR ANNIVERSARY

BK010900 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Speech by Kaysone Phomvihhan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers, on the occasion of the 60th founding anniversary of the USSR -- read by announcer; date and place not given]

[Text] Beloved comrades and friends:

With pleasure and elation, the Lao people, together with the Soviet people and progressive mankind in the world, are celebrating the 60th founding anniversary of the USSR. From the forefront of socialism in Southeast Asia, on behalf of the LPRP, the LPDR Government and the Lao people of all tribes, I would like to extend a profound spirit of solidarity and love and best wishes to the honorable and glorious CPSU and to the heroic Soviet people.

The Great October Socialist Revolution opened a new era in the history of mankind. The later establishment of the USSR marked an event of significance. It was the first time that a proletarian dictatorship state, composed of many nationalities and tribes, appeared in that land that covers one-sixth of the earth. Sixty years is a short period of time in the history of mankind. However, no other era can be compared with this period -- the period of the existence and development of the USSR. With creative and self-mastery labor and with solidarity, and wholehearted and fraternal mutual assistance among all nationalities and tribes which have maintained the common objectives and aspirations, the various nations, which maintain genuine freedom and equality, have joined in building a new national society -- a society without exploitation or oppression. Thus, they have profoundly and thoroughly succeeded in transforming the production relations and production forces; in building a new culture and new, socialist men; and in improving the living conditions of the Soviet people. The achievements of the Soviet nations in the above-mentioned activities of revolutionary transformation are evidence of their success in building a developed socialist society. The existence, growth and development of the USSR serve as a victory for the CPSU in the revolution of Lenin's principles on nationalities policy, considered a model for the correct and equitable solution to a complicated problem of nations.

Pursuing the glorious cause of the Indochinese Communist Party founded by great Comrade Ho Chi Minh, the LPRP has applied Marxism-Leninism and various lessons of the October Revolution and of the USSR to the practical conditions of Laos. Lenin's wise attitude on the problem of nations and colonies serves as a very precious lesson for our Lao country, which is composed of more than 60 tribes which, in the past, have united in the struggle for independence and freedom and, at present, are striving to build the country along the path of socialism.

Following the October Revolution, revolutionary and national liberation struggle movements of various nations have been enthusiastically carried out on all continents. With an indomitable and heroic spirit and a spirit of great sacrifice, the Red Army and people of the Soviet Union have not only defended their now socialist fatherland, but also saved mankind from the slavery disaster of fascism during World War II. They have created favorable conditions for many countries to liberate themselves and then advance along the path of the October Revolution. As a result, socialism within the boundary of one country has become a socialist system of the world -- a system which has been developed and strengthened daily and which has continuously moved forward.

This has resulted in a vigorous impact on world evolution and vigorous encouragement for the three revolutionary currents of the era to attack imperialism and the reactionaries from many directions, thereby repeatedly winning great victories.

At present, the Soviet Union serves as a banner of a call, torch, conviction and hope; a firm basis for the international working class and various oppressed nations; and a solid rampart for the world revolution and peace. The LPDR is proud to be member of the socialist community and pledges to use its energy to contribute to an enhancement of the strength of the whole community of socialist countries with the great Soviet Union as the core.

The Third LPRP Congress this April adopted the common guideline for the Lao revolution in the period of transition to socialism. The successful implementation of the resolution adopted by the said congress is considered as a basis for all tasks to be fulfilled by various party, state and mass organizations throughout the country at present. We are convinced that the implementation of the resolution will certainly be successful. Our Lao people are proud to have the great Soviet people as friends. We are very pleased with the fraternal friendship and fruitful cooperation between our two countries. We are proud to note that the Lao revolution has always been attentively cared for, supported and assisted by the party, state and fraternal people of the Soviet Union.

From this rostrum, I would like to express sincere gratitude to the party, state and fraternal people of the lofty spirit of socialist internationalism. We regard the strengthening of solidarity and all-round cooperation with the USSR as an issue characterized by principles which determine victory in the cause of national defense and socialist construction in Laos. It is also considered a basis of the foreign policy of our party and state and an endless and invincible strength which cannot be crushed by anything.

With deep condolences on the passing away of Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, outstanding leader of the CPSU and great friend of the Lao people, we pledge to continue to strengthen the relations with the party of Lenin and its Central Committee with Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov as general secretary.

Comrades, peace is an aspiration of mankind. Since its founding, the Soviet Union has announced the slogan saying peace and peace strategy of Lenin are attached to the entire line and policies of the CPSU and the Soviet state. The peace proposals and initiatives of the Soviet Union, which are aimed at easing tension among nations and opposing the aggressive intention of the imperialist circles, in particular the U.S. imperialists, have conformed with the aspirations of progressive mankind throughout the world. The Lao people, like various peace-loving nations throughout the world, support Soviet foreign policy, which is aimed at securely safeguarding peace. The Lao people also support the Soviet determination to guarantee the maintenance of national defense potential and the Soviet announcement that the USSR will not be the first to use nuclear weapons. The Lao people also agree with Comrade Yuriy Andropov's statement saying the difficulties and tension in the present world situation can be and should be settled and that mankind can no longer tolerate the risk of the arms race and war.

The LPDR supports the clear and resolute stand of the Soviet Union as stipulated in the report of Comrade Yuriy Andropov, which says: Nuclear war, small or large, limited or worldwide, will not be allowed to break out. We will contribute to realizing peace among various nations on all continents and everywhere on earth.

May the Soviet state, which is composed of many nationalities and tribes and which serves as a solid rampart in the struggle for communist ideals, for friendship among various nations, and for peace in the world, be strong and everlasting!

May the fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation between the parties, states and peoples of Laos and the Soviet Union be strengthened daily and further developed fruitfully!

Long live Marxism-Leninism!

Long live world peace!

SIANG PASASON EDITORIAL HAILS USSR ANNIVERSARY

BK021519 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 30 Dec 82

[SIANG PASASON 30 December editorial: "Wholeheartedly Salute the 60th Founding Anniversary of the USSR"]

[Text] Today is a great and significant day for the Soviet people and all workers and progressive people throughout the world because it marks the 60th founding anniversary of the USSR. On this auspicious day of the fraternal Soviet people, the Lao people of all nationalities would like to extend our wholehearted salutations and congratulations to the fraternal Soviet people in the big family of the first socialist state in the world and wish them new and greater achievements in taking their country along the path to communism.

It was 60 years ago on 30 December 1922 -- 5 years after the victory of the Great October Revolution in Russia -- with an objective necessity and with the consensus of all the republics which had approved the principle of the formation of a federated socialist state, Vladimir Illich Lenin, the great teacher of the world revolution, signed a decree on the founding of the USSR, thus creating a great exemplary event in consolidating the people of various nationalities into a united socialist family. The founding and development of the USSR was one of the great achievements of the October Revolution. It was the glorious and great victory of Lenin's multinational policy and that of the Soviet party and state, a historic event of international significance, and a festive event of the Soviet people as well as for the people in the other fraternal socialist countries and all progressive laboring people throughout the world.

Over the past 60 years, under the leadership of the noble and majestic CPSU -- the party of the great Lenin -- the multinational people in the Soviet family have united and overcome numerous difficulties and have carried out a heroic struggle to securely defend the first socialist state in the world and to successfully fulfill the socialist construction. They are now effectively building technical and material foundations for communism, thereby changing the face of the formerly backward Soviet Union into the most powerful country with the most prosperous industry in the world, advanced agriculture, culture and science, and strong national defense potentials which cannot be defeated by any enemy. At present, the total national resources of the USSR are valued to be worth more than 2.9 billion billion [figure as heard] rubles excluding the values of land and forests. The total social production has increased by 1,621 times compared to that in 1922, while the national revenues have increased by 173 times, the fixed production capital by 55 times, the amount of transportable goods for distribution by 229 times, the construction of urban housing projects by 12.3 times, and education and health services by 50 times. The volume of industrial production in 1982 alone has increased by 537 times compared to 1922, while agricultural production has increased by 5.2 times.

In addition, the USSR is the first country in the world that launched a satellite into orbit, sent cosmonauts into orbit to conduct space exploration and sent two lunar automobiles -- Lunakhod 1 and Lunakhod 2 -- to the moon to collect lunar rocks and dust for scientific analysis. It is also the first country to send two female cosmonauts into orbit around the earth for more than 1 week.

The above-mentioned achievements scored by the Soviet people testify positively to the outstanding characteristics and invincible strength of the socialist system. They reflect the correct implementation of Lenin's policy of equality among the Soviet people of all nationalities and the struggle by the Soviet people for peace, freedom and a good life. They also show that the USSR is the steel fortress for peace and a strong encouragement and a reliable prop for the people throughout the world in struggling for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

As for the Soviet experts working in our country, they are closely united to resolutely defend the national border and have strived to increase production in the industrial, handicrafts and agricultural fields and in fulfilling the tasks in irrigation work, road construction, transportation, trade, education, culture, public health and other fields with a view to gloriously fulfilling the first 5-year state plan. For example, in the immediate future, we will fulfill the tasks of paying agricultural tax and selling rice to the state, making preparations to grow dry-season rice and other grain crops for the forthcoming production season. With our close solidarity and all-round cooperation with the USSR, Vietnam, Kampuchea and other socialist countries, and with the tradition of hard work and the spirit of revolutionary enthusiasm of our people of all tribes, it is certain that our country will advance vigorously along the socialist path to deserve being a good and faithful friend of the Soviet people.

TRADE MINISTER RETURNS FROM SRV WITH TRADE AGREEMENT

BK291125 Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT 29 Dec 82

[Text] Vientiane, December 29 (OANA/KPL) -- A delegation of Trade Ministry led by its minister Vanthong Sengmuang, on December 27, arrived here after a 5-day official visit to Vietnam. During his stay in Vietnam, Vanthong Sengmuang signed the 1983 protocol on trade exchange and clearance with his Vietnamese trade officials.

Chanpheng Bounnaphon, deputy-trade minister, and Dam Xuan Dung, economic counselor of the Vietnam Embassy to Laos, were present at the airport to greet the delegation.

BRIEFS

USSR ANNIVERSARY PARTY -- Vientiane, December 28 (KPL) -- A ball to mark the 60th founding anniversary of the USSR was organized here on December 25 by the Ministry of Culture. Present on this occasion were Sali Vongkhamsao, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee; S. Sisan, minister of culture; and other personalities from various state organs along with diplomatic envoys and foreign experts. [Vientiane KPL in English 0919 GMT 28 Dec 82 BK]

BUOR HERL DENIES REPORTS OF SIHANOUK RESIGNATION

BK311133 Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai 31 Dec 82 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] A Thai military source told MATUPHUM that if the report of Prince Sihanouk's resignation is true, the prince might have resigned for tactical reasons to prevent a Vietnamese attack on his operational base at Chong Chom inside Kampuchea. Prince Sihanouk's base is located in a very sensitive area, and Vietnamese troops can easily attack it without having to cross Thai territory. His resignation is possibly aimed at avoiding the Vietnamese.

Buor Herl, economic minister of Prince Sihanouk's faction, told MATUPHUM that the resignation report is groundless. However, he admitted that the prince came up with the idea many months ago, but he has not yet made a decision. He said he also has a copy of the resignation letter of the prince, like that referred by the Singapore newspaper.

Buor Herl said he had received a reply letter from Prince Sihanouk saying that the prince will not visit Thailand for the time being. He will remain in Pyongyang because of his poor health. The prince is suffering from diabetes.

Buor Herl disclosed that Prince Sihanouk will stay in Pyongyang until April to participate in the celebration of the North Korean National Day before proceeding to Paris for medical treatment, which might take about 1 month. He might make a stopover in Thailand next July.

PRASONG DISCUSSES SRV OFFENSIVE, SIHANOUK REPORT

BK010334 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Jan 83 p 1

[By The Chongkhadikit]

[Text] Strong indications have been received by Thai authorities that the Vietnamese are preparing for probably their biggest offensive, with close air support, against the Kampuchean forces all along the Thai border from Khao Phra Vihan to Trat.

The reports, disclosed by the secretary-general of National Security Council, Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, came as other indications showed that Prince Nodorum Sihanouk, president of the Democratic Kampuchea Coalition, was considering "temporary withdrawal" from activities in that position.

Vietnamese military movements late this month include:

Transfer of 3,000 fresh troops from the 7th and 9th Military Regions of Vietnam to Siem Reap near Angkor Wat.

Two more regiments have been dispatched to Battambang from Kompong Thom.

More artillery, including 85mm, 105mm, 122mm and 130mm guns, and T54 tanks have been shifted to areas near Khmer resistance camps.

Military activity has increased in southern Battambang, near Pailin (opposite Pong Nam Ron in Chanthaburi Province), and in Oddar Mean Chey in the north.

Feeder roads have been built towards the border bases of the resistance forces that can be used by tanks, armoured personnel carriers and supply trucks. It is expected that the feeder roads will be usable in a month's time.

The Tbeng airfield at Phra Wihan has been improved with the runway strengthened and barracks built. Last week a Soviet-provided Antonov 26 transport plane brought officials to inspect the airfield, giving the impression that it is being prepared for air support operations in the Phra Wihan and Oddar Meanchey areas.

Soviet made Mi8 helicopters (each capable of transporting 24 to 26 soldiers) have been flown to helipads built in the Sisophon area.

There have also been indications that the Vietnamese might step up chemical warfare. Chemicals have been reported fired by artillery or airdropped into resistance-occupied terrain which are not easily accessible.

The offensive might take place along the border from Phra Wihan down to the region opposite Trat Province.

Meanwhile, resistance forces have reportedly been active in ambushing Vietnamese troops, cutting communication facilities, laying mines on routes used by the Vietnamese and general harrassing activities.

Regarding the report that Prince Sihanouk was considering "temporary withdrawal as active president of Democratic Kampuchea, Sqn-Ldr Prasong said: "It's only a news report, which has not yet been officially confirmed. It is up to Prince Sihanouk to realise that it is the Kampucheans who have to fight for their own independence from the invaders, and it is up to him to consider where his responsibilities lie."

On international assistance to the coalition, he said: "Such aid should be given to the Democratic Kampuchea Coalition as a whole rather than to the individual factions."

Asked what he thought of different alternative solutions being proposed to resolve the Kampuchean conflict, he said: "The best solution is that of the United Nations General Assembly, which requires the total withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea and provides for the Kampuchean people to exercise their right to self-determination.

"If other concerned nations have other plans, let them not disrupt the ASEAN formula, which calls for the implementation of the UN resolution. ASEAN is climbing a hill by the route it considers to be the best. Others may want to climb to the same summit by another route. They may do so but we appeal to them not to do anything that could destroy our route."

He added: "It's not our conflict. The Kampucheans are trying to get the invaders out of their soil. What we are concerned about is a spillover by any group -- Vietnamese or any Khmer resistance group. We don't want it. Our forces are ready to defend our territorial integrity.

"And we are concerned over the refugees trying to come over as a result of the fighting. We hope that international agencies and foreign governments will continue to help the refugees for humanitarian reasons," Sqn-Ldr Prasong added.

FURTHER ON USSR FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Pham Van Dong Speech

OW310220 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 29 Dec 82

[Opening speech by Council of Ministers Chairman Pham Van Dong at 29 December Hanoi meeting marking 60th USSR founding anniversary -- recorded]

[Text] Chairman Truong Chinh, Comrade Igor Ognetov, Soviet charge d'affaires ad interim, comrades and friends:

Together with the fraternal Soviet people and all progressive mankind, we solemnly celebrate here today the 60th founding anniversary of the great USSR. [applause]

It is the first unified worker-peasant, multinational state in the history of mankind. [applause]

The great October Socialist Revolution ushered in a new era in the history of mankind, the era of socialism triumphing over capitalism on world wide scale. [applause]

The establishment of the USSR is the future image of the community of various nations on our planet linked to one another by relations of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance, joining forces with one another in building a new society that is truly civilized and happy on the principled of one for all and all for one. [applause]

As you know, over the past few months, our people throughout our country have marked in many varied and lively forms the Soviet people's great and heroic historic days. [applause]

We mark these great and heroic days with all our revolutionary ardor because our entire revolutionary cause, under our party's leadership, with its [words indistinct] victories, is closely linked to the great Vladimir Ilich Lenin, to the October Revolution and to the USSR, the bastion of world peace and a firm support of the world revolution. [applause]

On the basis of the successes recorded, the future will witness still greater and more splendid successes of the Soviet Union, of the three revolutionary currents and of our Vietnamese people in the successful building of socialism and firm defense of our beloved socialist fatherland. [applause] And this is the victory of Marxism-Leninism, the light, the truth and the conscience of our era. [applause]

Soviet Envoy's Speech

OW021558 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 29 Dec 82

[Speech by Igor Aleksandrovich Ognetov, USSR charge d'affaires and interim, at 29 December Hanoi meeting marking 60th USSR founding anniversary -- recorded in Russian fading into translation]

[Text] We stood side by side with one another during the trials of the fierce war years. We are now again standing together because the SRV is trying to solve the tasks of socialist construction and implementing the resolutions of the Fifth VCP Congress under difficult and arduous conditions.

We will forever stand shoulder to shoulder with one another because the fraternal relations between our two parties, countries and peoples are becoming firmer with every passing day.

The coordination of action between the Soviet Union and Vietnam in the international arena is becoming increasingly tighter and exerting increasingly greater influence on the course of events in the world.

The Soviet people consider the consolidation of fraternal relations with Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea and the close unity of the three Indochinese countries as an important factor of peace in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world. The Soviet Union supports the peace initiatives of the three Indochinese countries and considers them to be a good basis for normalizing the situation in this region of the world.

The celebrations of the 60th USSR founding anniversary in the SRV are new splendid manifestations of the unbreakable friendship between our two countries.

VFF Political Function

BK011214 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 29 Dec 82

[Text] On the occasion of the USSR's 60th anniversary and the month of Vietnamese-Soviet friendship, the VFF Central Committee Secretariat held a political function at the VFF headquarters, which is located at 46 Truong Thi St., Hanoi, on the morning of 29 December to celebrate this historic event of the fraternal Soviet people and to mark the ever growing solidarity, friendship and cooperation between our people and the Soviet people.

Attending the function were Comrades Hoang Quoc Viet, chairman of the Presidium of the VFF Central Committee; Nguyen Huu Tho, member of the Presidium of the VFF Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly; Huynh Tan Phat, member of the Presidium of the VCP Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Hoang Tung, secretary of the VCP Central Committee; Nguyen Xien and Tran Dang Khoa, members of the Presidium of the VFF Central Committee and vice chairmen of the Vietnamese-Soviet Friendship Association; Nghiem Xuan Yem, Phan Anh, Tran Nam Trung, Lt Gen Nguyen Quang Hoa and Nguyen Van Tien, members of the Presidium of the VFF Central Committee; Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh and Comrade Hai Lang, members of the VFF Central Committee; and many other members of the Presidium and Secretariat of the VFF Central Committee who were present in Hanoi.

Also present were Comrade Tran Duy Hung, member of the Presidium of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship with the Peoples of Other Countries; representatives of various mass organizations and subordinate organs of the VFF and many reporters of the central government and from Hanoi. The Soviet charge d'affaires in our country, Ognietov, attended the function.

In his opening speech, after hailing the fraternal Soviet people's great festive day of historic significance, Comrade Hoang Quoc Viet said: The VFF Central Committee will continue to motivate the people of various strata throughout Vietnam to strengthen their activities aimed at promoting solidarity and friendship with the Soviet people and ever closer attachments between the fatherlands of Lenin and Ho Chi Minh.

He reasserted: The VFF Central Committee is determined to support the Soviet Union's peace initiatives as outlined in Comrade Andropov's recent speech and the CPSU Central Committee's recent appeal.

Comrades Hoang Tung, Huynh Tan Phat and Ognietov gave their speeches, pointing out the great historic significance of the victory of the October Revolution and of the founding of the USSR.

They highly appraised the appearance of the Soviet state before the world as a friendship family of equality-minded republics which are joining hands to build communism and promote the glorious development of fraternal relations and mutual respect and trust among nations.

NHAN DAN 30 Dec Editorial

BK011030 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 29 Dec 82

["Text" of NHAN DAN 30 December editorial: "The Great Soviet Union, Strong Bastion of World Peace and Revolution"]

[Text] Together with the Soviet people and progressive mankind, the Vietnamese people jubilantly welcome the 60th founding anniversary of the USSR. Since earlier this week, our compatriots and combatants throughout the country have extended their sentiments and profound affection toward the first socialist nation, the land of Lenin.

The founding of the USSR is a great achievement of the October Revolution, a brilliant success of Lenin's correct nationalities policy and an important and great event of global historic significance.

In his speech at the meeting to mark the 60th founding anniversary of the USSR, esteemed Comrade Le Duan, general secretary of the VCP, said: Under the leadership of the CPSU, the genuinely equal and voluntary alliance of all nationalities in the Soviet Union has become a steel bastion checking and thwarting all aggressive moves of the imperialist enemy, firmly defending the socialist state, making the decisive contribution to saving humanity from the fascist holocaust, successfully building developed socialism, pioneering the path to communism and ushering in the era for the conquest of the outer space.

The great victory of the October Revolution and the brilliant achievements of the Soviet Union over the past 60 years have set a marvelous example for the successful solution to the class and nationality problems in the revolution. It symbolizes the victory of the two banners -- socialism and national independence -- in the light of Marxism-Leninism.

The great Soviet Union is a strong bastion of world peace and revolution. The image of the Soviet Union in the early 1980's shows the great success of Lenin's correct nationalities policy. This is a bright symbol of a new world -- that of friendship, peace, cooperation and mutual assistance between nations and of might and prosperity for the happiness of man. In a short period of time, a poor, backward country with more than 100 nationalities at different levels of development has become a most powerful country with a modern industry and agriculture. It has become a country in which all nationalities are advancing together in all fields and attaining peaks of civilization and a country that has opened the road to outer space.

Under the gloomy situation of the capitalist world, which is faced with a general crisis, the CIA report, though wanting to play down achievements of the Soviet Union, has admitted the consistent and firm development in the Soviet land. The undertaking of great projects set forth by the 26th CPSU Congress has opened up before the fraternal Soviet people a wide horizon for strengthening developed socialism and building socialist material and technical bases.

The image of the Soviet Union presents most beautifully the Soviet people who are demonstrating their heroism in labor and combat and in their behavior and life-style for the sake of socialism and communism in their homeland and for proletarian internationalism and the happiness of mankind.

The might of the Soviet Union has had a decisive impact on the changing of forces in the world in favor of peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

In the present world situation and in face of the fanatical nuclear arms race of the U.S.-led imperialist forces, the great and important role assumed by the Soviet Union as a loyal and devoted guardian of world peace and security is becoming more and more obvious.

The Soviet Union's peace program for the 1980's and its other new and very important peace initiatives which have been once again reaffirmed by Comrade Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, are enjoying the approval and support of all progressive mankind.

The SRV National Assembly has issued a statement fully supporting the appeal made by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the CPSU Central Committee. The statement stressed that this appeal has once again testified to the high sense of responsibility of the Soviet Union, a nation which has made the biggest sacrifice and contributions to the peaceful life of mankind during the past 60 years.

With their firm confidence in the Soviet Union, people throughout the world are stirring up a large-scale struggle for peace and disarmament. The Soviet Union's growing invincible strength, the offensive strength of the three revolutionary currents of the era and the consciousness of people throughout the world are capable forces that can stop the bellicose clique in order to protect peace and mankind's right to life on our planet.

In his speech at the meeting held recently in Moscow to celebrate the 60th founding anniversary of the USSR, Comrade Le Duan expounded on the warm sentiments which have closely bound the Vietnamese people with the fraternal Soviet people during more than half a century of struggle of the Vietnamese people for independence, freedom and socialism. To the Vietnamese Communists and people, the Soviet Communist Party and people are devoted and generous comrades and very loyal comrades in arms. Following the signing of the Vietnam-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, the militant solidarity, great friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the two parties and nations are being consolidated and expanded in all domains. Uniting and cooperating comprehensively with the Soviet Union is a principle, a strategy and a revolutionary sentiment.

During the month of Vietnamese-Soviet friendship, the Vietnamese people of all strata have, by word and deed, strongly demonstrated their close ties with the Soviet Union and extended their gratitude for its great, valuable and effective assistance.

With confidence and hope in and admiration for the heroic history and the noble cause of the Soviet Union, the Vietnamese people warmly wish the Soviet people still greater and more brilliant successes.

Following the Soviet example and uniting and cooperating comprehensively with the Soviet Union and the socialist community, our people uphold revolutionary willpower, strive to increase labor productivity and practice thrift in order to overcome difficulties to fulfill targets set forth in the Fifth VCP Congress resolutions, thereby contributing positively to building and defending the socialist fatherland.

NHAN DAN ARTICLE PRAISES SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY

OW010859 Hanoi VNA in English 0824 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, January 1st -- "In the present world situation the Soviet Union's foreign policy of peace is the source of inspiration and the program of action for all forces of peace and progress".

This is stated by NHAN DAN in an article today hailing the appeal of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Supreme Soviet addressed to the parliaments, governments, political parties and people throughout the world.

The paper says: "The world people are entering the new year with the momentous tasks of struggling to defend peace, the aspiration and happiness of mankind. In this struggle, there has always shone in the mind of every progressive people anywhere on this planet the image of the Soviet Union as the firm bastion of peace and revolution".

The paper recalls that since the end of World War Two the Soviet Union has put forward hundreds of initiatives on peace and disarmament. The successive initiatives made by the Soviet Union at the United Nations encompass a wide-ranging program aimed at achieving this objective step by step, the paper notes, adding that these proposals cover all aspects of the problem of disarmament, from the ban on the testing, a halt to the production and the prohibition of the proliferation and use of nuclear weapons, to the ban on weapons of mass extermination and a series of other problems such as the dissolution of the military blocs, reduction of the war budgets, troop strength and strategic as well as conventional arms, the convening of international conference on disarmament, etc.

NHAN DAN roundly condemns the U.S. imperialists for having systematically wrecked the process of detente started in the seventies, and continues: "Most recently, the Soviet Union raised a series of proposals, and to demonstrate its good will it took a number of unilateral measures.

The proposals raised at the 26th Congress of the C.P.S.U., the solemn commitment of the Soviet Union not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and the proposals put forward by Y.V. Andropov are great efforts of the Soviet Union to contribute to the present crucial struggle for the survival of mankind".

The paper goes on: "More than ever before the progressive mankind is turning its eyes to the Soviet Union, the great combatant for peace and the rights of nations. Now as before, imperialism is exerting every effort to misrepresent the Soviet Union's policies. However, all men of conscience know that in the Soviet Union as in any other socialist country there is no place for the social classes, strata or groups who can profit by the arms race or war. To the socialist countries, peace is an indispensable condition to carry out the long-term social, economic and cultural development programs and to provide internationalist help to the revolutionary force and the national liberation forces".

NHAN DAN COMMENTS ON U.S. 'INTERVENTION' IN DRA

OW021554 Hanoi VNA in English 1525 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, Jan. 2 -- "Hands Off Revolutionary Afghanistan" is the title of a commentary by NHAN DAN today strongly condemning the Reagan administration's recent declaration that the United States would continue "an undeclared war" against Afghanistan.

The paper fully supports the Afghan Government's rejection of Reagan's slanderous charges about Soviet assistance to the Afghan people.

It says: "The U.S. president's slanderous charges and his open statement about continued U.S. intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan show that Washington is pursuing a very brazen policy of opposition to the sovereignty and national independence of other nations. Over the past few years, despite the sabotage by the counter-revolutionaries, the situation in Afghanistan has been constantly stabilized, and the Afghan people have obtained remarkable achievements in all fields. Like in Southeast Asia, Washington's slander campaign and intervention there have been closely coordinated by Beijing, which has lent a helping hand to the Afghan reactionaries".

The paper continues: "The hostile policy of the United States and other international reactionary forces can never shake the Afghan people's determination to advance along the way they have chosen....

"Soviet assistance to Afghanistan in defending its national sovereignty and independence and the fruits of the April revolution is in conformity with the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and with the United Nations' Charter".

"Vietnam firmly supports the just stands of the governments of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and of the government of the Soviet Union. The U.S. imperialists and the Beijing authorities must cease immediately their interventionist policy against Afghanistan and respect its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity," NHAN DAN concludes.

DEFENSE MINISTER, DELEGATION LEAVE FOR LAOS

OW030805 Hanoi VNA in English 0735 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, January 3 -- A Vietnamese military delegation led by General Van Tien Dung, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and minister of national defence, left here this morning for an official friendship visit to Laos.

The delegation also includes Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang, vice-minister of national defence; Major General Dang Vu Hiep, member of the party Central Committee, vice-minister of national defence and deputy head of the General Political Department; Lieutenant General Le Ngoc Hien, member of the party Central Committee and deputy chief of the General Staff; Major General Le Van Tri, head of the General Technical Department; and other senior officers.

They were seen off by General Chu Huy Man, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee; General Hoang Van Thai, vice-minister of national defence; Senior Lieutenant General Le Trong Tan, chief of the General Staff; Tran Huu Duc, president of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association; and others. Also present on the occasion were Lao Ambassador Khampheun Tounalom and military attache of the Lao Embassy, Sa Thien.

VNA REJECTS CHARGES OF SHELLING THAI TERRITORY

OW301636 Hanoi VNA in English 1623 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] Hanoi, VNA Dec. 30 -- VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY is authorized to completely reject an allegation by the Thai Foreign Ministry that the Vietnamese forces had many times encroached upon or shelled Thai territory.

Beijing Radio yesterday quoted Thai newspapers as saying that last week the Thai Foreign Ministry instructed its permanent mission to the United Nations to inform the U.N. secretary-general that Vietnam had many times encroached upon Thailand's borders and that the Vietnamese forces had fired rockets and shells on Thai territory, causing death and injuries to Thai civilians.

As VNA has pointed out many times, such fabrications aim at poisoning the atmosphere which is becoming less strained, thwarting the process of dialogue and of establishing friendly relations between Vietnam and Thailand, and playing off the Indochinese countries against the ASEAN nations, in service of Beijing's expansionist and hegemonist policy.

THAI PROVOCATIONS AGAINST KAMPUCHEA REPORTED

OW311540 Hanoi VNA in English 1530 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, Dec. 31 -- In the week ending on December 24 armed vessels of Thailand made hundreds of incursions into Kampuchean waters in the vicinity of Koh Kong Island.

Artillery based on Thai soil many times bombarded Kampuchean territory with mortars, cannons and rockets. The areas subjected to these bombardments are Kon Kak, Ampil, Romiet, Dangkum, Bunam Sap, Tasanh and Hill 343.

Aircraft of Thailand of the L-19, C-47, and C-130 types on nine occasions violated the airspace of Kampuchea over the western sector of Sat, the northern sector of Anlong Vent, Kon Kak, Dangkum, the western sector of Smatdeng and Keo Melai, located between two and three kilometres from the frontier.

MEETING HELD TO CELEBRATE CUBAN NATIONAL DAY

OW311636 Hanoi VNA in English 1608 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] Hanoi, Dec 31 -- A meeting in celebration of the 24th National Day of Cuba was jointly held here today by the Communist Party Committee, the People's Committee and the Fatherland Front Committee of Hanoi, and the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association.

The presidium included Tran Quoc Huong, member of the Central Committee of the C.P.V. and deputy secretary of Hanoi Committee of the C.P.V; Dr. Pham Khac Quang, president of the Vietnam Fatherland Front of Hanoi; Mrs. Le Thi Xuyen, vice-president on the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association; and Nguyen Dong, vice-president of the People's Committee of Hanoi.

Cuban Ambassador to Vietnam Faure Chomon Mediavilla also attended.

In his commemorative speech Mr. Pham Khac Quang brought out the great significance of the victory of the Cuban revolution and the achievements recorded by the Cuban people in national defence and socialist construction. He praised the noble spirit of proletarian internationalism of Cuba and pointed out that Vietnam and Cuba have long been bound by a common revolutionary ideal. The fine relations between Vietnam and Cuba, which have been tested by the struggle against a common enemy, are developing even more splendidly in the new stage.

Addressing the meeting, Ambassador F.C. Mediavilla exalted the gallant struggle of the Vietnamese people against the U.S. imperialists for national salvation as well as against the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists. The Cuban people, he said, have learnt a lot from the Vietnam people in their indomitable struggle for national independence, and their experiences.

The Cuban ambassador denounced the war plans of the U.S. imperialists and reaffirmed the Cuban people's unshakeable determination to defend peace. He wished the Vietnamese people success in their national defence and socialist construction.

A film show was given here this evening by the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture to inaugurate the Cuban film days in Vietnam.

Also on this occasion, Hoang Tung, president of the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association and Mr. Hoang Minh Giam, president of the Presidium of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship With Other Peoples, have sent their greetings to Rene Rodriguez Cruz, president of Cuban Committee for Solidarity With Vietnam.

INDIAN FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION PAYS VISIT

Feted in Hanoi 30 Dec

OW310347 Hanoi VNA in English 1614 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, Dec. 30 -- A get-together with the delegation of the West Bengal Committee for Solidarity with Vietnam led by Prof. Santimoy Ray, general secretary of the committee, was held here today by the Vietnam-India Friendship Association and the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship With Other Peoples.

Speaking on this occasion, Dr. Dang Hoi Xuan, minister of public health and president of the Vietnam-India Friendship Association, exalted the tradition of friendship and solidarity between Vietnam and India and highly valued the activities of the Indian people led by Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi aimed at enhancing those friendly ties.

Prof. Santimoy Ray expressed thanks for the Vietnamese people's hospitality and his belief in the further development of friendship and cooperation between India and Vietnam.

Songs in Vietnamese and Hindi praising the friendship and cooperation between the two peoples were sung by Ajit Pandaey, member of the Indian delegation, and Vietnamese singers.

Delegation Departs 31 Dec

OW311930 Hanoi VNA in English 1535 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, Dec. 31 -- The delegation of the West Bengal Committee for Solidarity With Vietnam led by Prof. Santimoy Ray, general secretary of the committee, today concluded its two-week visit to Vietnam.

It was seen off at the airport by Tran Hoai Nam, member of the Presidium and general secretary of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship With Other Peoples; and To Hoai, vice-president of the Vietnam-Indian Friendship Association, and others.

NEW BRITISH ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS 29 DEC

OW291750 Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT 29 Dec 82

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, Dec. 29 -- Michael Edmund Pike, new ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, presented his credentials to State Council President Truong Chinh today. President Truong Chinh had a cordial talk with him. Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach was also present on the occasion.

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